

**FRIDAY
JUNE 16 2006**

NO. 263 CN11-0120
HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM

CHIEF EDITOR:
JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR:
HOU MINGXIN
DESIGNER:
ZHAO YAN

北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



Munch your way through McFashion. Page 17



More Laowai on bikes? - CMC Motorcycle club launched. Page 7

Syria: America says 'evil', we say 'easy on the eye'. Page 21



Photo by Lionel Derimais

Something crazy for the weekend?

By Gareth George

Four stylists from Eric's hair salon (Sanlitun), including Cathrine (above), descended on Beijing Chaoyang Mental Health Facility on Wednesday. Blow dryers and snippers in hand, 19 lucky ladies got a hot summer make-over.

Police to tackle gun problems in the 'wild west'

Page 3

Beijing law firm to sue contact lens giant

By Han Manman

A local law firm is preparing to sue contact lens giant Bausch and Lomb claiming that dozens of people have suffered fungal infections after using its products.

Beijing Limin Law Firm is planning to file a lawsuit in America on behalf of the contact lens wearers in China who claim to have been infected by the company's ReNu solution. It is the first time that such legal action has been taken against Bausch and Lomb.

Bausch and Lomb's ReNu with MoistureLoc contact lens solution had to be taken off the shelves on May 15 after reports that dozens of people had become infected after using the products. The number of cases are now believed to be more widespread than previously thought.

The infection, called Fusarium keratitis, involves a swelling and inflammation of the cornea that can be harmful to the structure of the eye and the patient's vision. In many cases, scarring is so severe that patients must undergo a full corneal transplant.

According to lawyer Hao Junbo from Limin, the firm are looking for people who have used ReNu with MoistureLoc and have suffered eye injuries as a result.

"The more cases we receive, the greater chances we have of winning the case. But if even one person comes forward, we will still go to America to sue," said Hao.

On February 18, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia all stopped the sale of ReNu solution. Two months later, America and China followed suit.

Under the auspices of the Information Office of Beijing Municipal Government ■ Run by Beijing Youth Daily ■ President: Zhang Yanping ■ Editor in Chief: Zhang Yabin ■ Executive Deputy Editor in Chief: He Pingping ■ Director: Jian Rong ■ Price: 2 yuan per issue ■ 26 yuan for 3 months ■ Address: No.23, Building A, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China ■ Zip Code: 100026 ■ Telephone/Fax: (010) 65902525 ■ E-mail: bjtoday@ynet.com ■ Hotline for subscription: (010) 67756666 (Chinese), (010) 65902626 (English) ■ Overseas Code Number: D1545 ■ Overseas Distribution Agent: China International Book Trading Corporation



Bioscor International
A More Beautiful You

beijing@bioscor.com.cn
www.bioscor.com.cn

Tel: +86 (10) 65035707

Established in Melbourne, Australia since 1992, Bioscor International has a worldwide presence in 12 countries and is a leader in field of cosmetic medicine. Now Bioscor is pleased to offer you its excellent services and the latest in today's innovative aesthetic medical technology at our Bioscor Beijing Clinic.

Bioscor Beijing Clinic

Room 1008, e-Tower building, No.12, Guang Hua Lu Bing (Opposite Kerry Center)
Chao Yang District, Beijing 100020, China 朝阳区光华路丙12号数码01大厦1008室(嘉里中心对面)



- Skin Rejuvenation
- Anti-wrinkle Injections
- Derma-fillers
- IPL Hair Removal
- Tatoo Removal
- Hair Regrowth
- Cosmetic Surgery
- Anti-Ageing Program

Hotels set to cash in on the Games

By Jackie Zhang

Five star hotels are set to charge up to US\$425 a night for a room during the 2008 Beijing Olympics – a price hike of around one and half times the normal rate.

But Olympic officials insist that the inflated room charges – ranging from US\$176 for a three-star hotel room to US\$425 for a five-

star room – still makes accommodation cheaper in Beijing than it was in Athens during the 2004 Olympic Games.

Hotels in Greece's capital charged up to four times the normal rate when the country staged the 2004 Games.

The room charges were revealed on Monday. The Beijing Organizing Committee for the 29th

Olympic Games announced that 112 star hotels in the city had signed a contract with them to provide accommodation for athletes, members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other international guests.

The hotels – all located inside the South 2nd Ring Road – will provide 28,965 rooms. A further 700 star hotels are set

to open in Beijing by 2008 providing accommodation for the estimated 17,000 athletes, 33,200 sponsors and media and 550,000 spectators.

Xiong Yumei, vice director general of Beijing Tourism Bureau, said that from the first half of next year, all the signed hotels would start to accept room bookings for the 2008 Olympic Games.

French pledge to help improve Beijing's emergency services

By Han Manman

Representatives from five Paris hospitals signed agreements with deans of five Beijing hospitals on Monday to enhance medical emergency cooperation between the two cities and provide first-class emergency services for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Five Beijing hospitals, the Friendship Hospital, Tongren Hospital, Chaoyang Hospital, Anzhen Hospital and the Beijing Emergency Center, signed the agreement and were designated as the main hospitals for the 2008 Olympic Games. They will cooperate with the Paris hospitals to improve Beijing's medical emergency system and provide medical emergency services during the Olympics.

"This agreement is the second part of our medical emergency cooperation," said Remi Lambert, first secretary of the French embassy. "The first part was in 2004 when 30 Beijing first-aiders went to France for training, research and face-to-face exchanges with their French counterparts." He said the exchange helped Chinese medical staff learn about the advantages of the French first-aid medical system and how to use advanced technologies.

Emergency medical programs will continue with a series of French-Chinese symposiums throughout the next three years.



Chinese handicraft to celebrate Queen's birthday

A Chinese snuff bottle being presented to the representative of the Queen of UK as an 80-year-old birthday gift on June 14. The gift comes from UK China Culture Association and is designed by Zhang Zenglou, a Chinese inside painting master.

Xinhua Photos

Drive for more blood donors

By Qiu Jiaoning

A drive to get more people to donate blood components was launched on Wednesday, World Blood Donor Day.

Beijing's Red Cross Blood Center (BRCBC) urged residents to take part in blood component donations, a method of collecting elements of blood like red blood cells, platelets and plasma for patients with particular needs. When the components are collected, the remaining blood can be safely re-injected into the donor.

According to Gao Guojing, director of the BRCBC, 96 percent of blood transfusions in the city use blood components, while

component donations account for only 10 percent of all of Beijing's blood donations.

On Wednesday, film star Pu Cunxin and over 100 student volunteers from Beijing's universities donated blood to raise awareness about the shortage.

Ge Jinglan, a BRCBC official, said the demand for blood in Beijing was massive, with patients traveling from across the country for treatment.

Research shows that Beijing's annual clinical demand for blood stands at 84 million cubic centimeters, with voluntary donations accounting for around 76 percent of the total last year. It is expected

that 100 percent of the city's total clinical demand for blood will come from voluntary donations.

"The amount of blood donated by volunteers has increased by 45,000 bags annually over the past five years and is expected to surge by a large margin in the years to come," said Jing Dapeng, director of Beijing Municipal Health Bureau earlier.

Beijing is considering setting up a voluntary donation team, consisting of 40,000 to 50,000 volunteers, to bridge the gap, Shi Weiwei, deputy head of Beijing Municipal Blood Donation Office, told Xinhua News Agency earlier this week.

Philanthropist and 'husband' of mystery Hollywood star pens biography

By Chen Shasha

Li Chunping, one of China's top 10 charity donors this year and alleged former husband of a millionaire Hollywood film star, published his biography this week.

The biography tells the amazing tale of Li's rise from rags to riches after accidentally meeting the famous actress – who he refuses to name – in a Beijing Hotel in 1979. The actress, who was 38 years older than him, fell madly in love with Li and,

in 1980, took him to the US where they were married just days before her death.

"She said she would wait for me in paradise and told me not to marry anybody else after her death," Li claimed in the book.

Li Chunping has since moved back to Beijing where he owns three luxury houses valued at 80 million yuan. He is in possession of three Rolls-Royce cars and rare oil paintings by Vincent van Gogh and Picasso, which were inherited from his mysterious Holly-

wood film star wife. When he came back to China, Li began to do charity work. He claimed that he did so because so many people helped him when he lived in poverty before he met his wife.

In the last 15 years, Li has donated more than 50 million yuan to charities and the poor. But some critics claim the charity work is a fame seeking exercise. Some have even suggested that Li's mystery wife was Audrey Hepburn. Li has continually refused to identify his wife.

From hutong to highrise

By Chen Shasha

Expats have launched a project called 'Hutong to Highrise' to capture the perspectives of Beijing's dwindling number of hutong residents.

Carrie Clyne, initiator of the project, claimed that with a bit of training and cameras, residents could record daily life in the vanishing city hutongs. "This is what makes our project so special."

Ten families living in hutongs have been selected to document the old Beijing culture. Residents' photos and personal stories will be displayed in China and the US.

Terror guidelines on how to escape subway

By Han Manman

Two hundred thousand 'safety guides' on how to escape the subway in case of a terrorist attack, fire or power cut have been sent out across the city.

The guidebooks, published by the Beijing municipal government last Sunday and based on similar guides used in New York, include evacuation maps of the 70 subway stations on the four underground lines operating in Beijing.

They combine cartoons pictures, and words to show passengers what to do during an emergency in the subway from minor incidents to power cuts, toxic gas attacks, explosions and fires.

"No one will read the guidebook in an emergency," said commuter Mr Zhang, "what we need are clear signs in the subway and staff to guide us in the case of an emergency."

Another commuter, Mrs Tan added, "The guidebook should help people become more aware about subway safety."

Fat Friends fight the battle of the bulge

By Wang Xiaoyuan

A performance by overweight actresses, organized by Beijing's first fat club, was held in the city's Botanical Garden last week.

The club, called Beijing Fat Friends, was set up last month and already has over 200 members. The majority are women in their late 20s. Fat club founder, May Qu, who used to suffer from a weight problem, said she wanted to help her members boost their confidence and provide a stage for them to show off their talents.

Qian Jin Zu He (Five Hundred Kilograms), a band of four fat women, put on a ballet performance at the show, to much applause from the audience.

The band, from Nanjing, formed in May and picked the name because the weight of the four women is over one thousand kilograms. Xiaoyang, one of the band members said, "We felt very pretty when we danced and sang."

To join Fat Friends, applicants must weigh at least 20 kilograms more than their standard weight (according to BMI index). Dong Xue, who helps run Fat Friends, said "Beijing is perhaps the city with the largest number of fat people in China. According to our investigations, there are over 80,000 fat adults in Beijing. Obesity is not only an appearance problem, but it is also detrimental to health. What we are doing is giving them a chance to get together and solve their problems, physical and psychological." Fat Friends will hold charity and performance events in the future. To apply for membership and take part in the group's next event – a beauty competition in September – go to www.bjpyjlb.com.

Police to tackle gun problems in the 'wild west'

By Jiang Xubo

The Ministry of Public Security has launched a nationwide crackdown on illegal guns and explosives through June and October, with an emphasis on Qinghai and Guizhou provinces in west China.

Despite continued police efforts against the trade, illegal weapons production and dealing remains rampant in Hualong

County in northwest China's Qinghai Province and Songtao County in southwest China's Guizhou Province.

"People seeking access to guns have begun to turn to illegal sources as the government has toughened gun regulations in recent years. Since homemade guns can yield a profit of up to 3,000 yuan (US \$375), the temptation for farmers with annual

incomes of less than 1,000 yuan (US\$125) is great," said Xu Hu, deputy director of the ministry's public security bureau.

The two provinces were involved in four out of the seven major cases linked to illegal weapons production and dealing in the last five years, according to the ministry.

"Parts of guns have seeped out of legal arms-manufacturers

in the last several years and contribute greatly to the destructive power of illegally produced guns, which makes the situation even worse," said Xu.

The police have confiscated a total of more than 3.8 million illegal weapons across the country in the last several years, most of them are guns made without authorization, according to the ministry.

Computer virus extorts victims

By Jiang Xubo

A local antivirus software producer has discovered a computer virus that hides computer files for extortion purposes.

The virus, named Trojan/Agent.bq, can produce a new hidden file folder in the infected computers. It moves the owners' files into the folder and sends a report that says the files are missing. When users try the solution program provided by the virus to reclaim their files, they are informed that they are required to pay 70 yuan (US\$9) into a given account from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China before the problem can be solved.

It is the first extortion virus found in the country and targets users with Chinese as the operating systems language. Users can update their antivirus software to get rid of it, according to Beijing Jiangmin New Science & Technology Company, the first company claimed to have detected the virus.

Brief news

Vice mayor dismissed for corruption

The Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal People's Congress removed Liu Zhihua, vice mayor of the capital, from his post for corruption and dissoluteness Sunday.

Beijing: 70th most competitive city world wide

Beijing ranks as the 70th most competitive city among 110 cities around the world, according to the first Global Urban Competitiveness Report issued this week, a joint report written by scholars from eight countries, including the US, the UK, Italy and China.

Higher house prices

House prices rose in May by some six percent compared to last year in 70 large and medium-sized cities across the country, according to a report jointly released by the National Development and Reform Commission and National Bureau of Statistics.

Nationwide sampling survey on cancer

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Science and Technology will launch a joint sampling survey, covering over 100 million people, within a year on the cancer-related death toll among people in different regions across the country.

Insurance for miners

Occupational injury insurance will cover migrant workers in all mines and most construction enterprises within the next two years, according to a program issued this week by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

Better wages for urban employees

Urban employees' annual average wage earnings across the country hit over 18,000 yuan (US\$2,250) last year, up more than 2,000 yuan (US \$250) on the year before, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

(By Jiang Xubo)



Terra-cotta warriors march to Russia

The Exhibition of 81 Emperor Qin's Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses is being held on Moscow National History Museum for the first time from June 14 to November 30.

Xinhua Photo

TV companies not smiling at semi-naked presenters

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Two female television presenters and a college student caught the public's attention this week by appearing semi-naked in a promotion for women's health in Hunan Province.

However, the two presenters also received some unwanted attention - from their employers.

It was the first time that a television presenter had exposed her body in print media in mainland China.

Three hundred billboards appeared on the streets of Chang-

sha on June 7. The picture shows Chen Dan, Xu Jing, and Lisa covering their breasts using their hair or hands behind a pink ribbon. The slogan for the advertisement was 'Smart woman, love yourself more'. Chen and Xu are both popular presenters in Changsha, and Lisa is a third-year student at Hunan Economy University.

The advertisements aroused much attention. Many criticized the presenters for exposing their bodies to promote themselves. The three women stated at a press conference that they only did it for charity and took no

payment. Changsha Shangmei Women's Hospital, the sponsor of the advertisement, expressed their absolute support for the three women. However, arguments about whether exposing one's body is a proper way to raise awareness for a charity still rage on. Luo Man, a Changsha citizen, said, "It is sexual discrimination to criticize women who are half naked. There is nothing wrong with the advertisement."

According to Chinese regulation of mass media, presenters cannot engage in any form of commercial activity without the

agreement of his/her authorities. The two presenters are facing punishment from their stations. Chen, the presenter of Woman TV on Changsha TV Station, has just returned to work after a one-week ban.

Woman TV stated on June 10 that as Chen had violated the internal regulations of the station, it was legal to stop her working contract temporarily. In the announcement, Woman TV also revealed its intention to sue the hospital. Xu's employer, Hunan Education TV Station, has not yet made a decision on her case.

Mary's Hospital to open in Beijing

By Fan Ruohong

Mary's Hospital, the first Sino-Canadian joint venture hospital for women and children in Beijing, is to open next Monday.

Serving mainly white-collar locals and foreigners in Beijing, the hospital offers professional treatment and education concerning newborn babies and keeps health records for each child.

With an investment of about 100 million yuan, the hospital has over 100 beds, advanced medical facilities, and a professional team.

Cleaner electronic products to boost exports to EU

By Qiu Jiaoning

With an eye to the European market, China has banned the use of six toxic substances in the production of all electronic equipment, according to a new regulation issued by China's Ministry of Industrial Information (MII).

The cost of China's exported home appliances to the EU is expected to increase by 10 percent when the new regulation takes effect, said Lu Renbo, an industry expert from the Development Research Center of the State Council.

The substances are: lead,

mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls, and polybrominated diphenyl ether.

Inspired by the EU's RoHS directive, the new regulations come into effect on March 1, 2007 and will apply to the acts of producing, selling and importing electronic products in China. Under the regulation, these products marketed in China must use environmentally friendly materials, technologies and processes in compliance with national or industrial standards.

A wide range of electrical

and electronic equipment will be affected, including electronic radar, communication equipment, broadcast and television equipment, computer products, household electronic products, electronic measuring devices, special-purpose electronic products, electronic components, applied electronic products and electronic materials.

Huang Jianzhong, an official from China's Ministry of Information Industry (MII) said that unlike the EU RoHS Directive, which applies primarily to producers, the China RoHS law will apply to everyone in the supply chain.

Beijing's port city aims to be 'gateway to north China'

Beijing, June 8 (AFP/ industryweek.com) – The city of Tianjin, often considered the port of Beijing, has received the official nod for an ambitious plan that will turn it into the 'gateway to north China,' state media announced on June 7.

Tianjin, a city and a region of more than 10 million people, has

been designated an experimental zone with an emphasis on financial services, according to a statement from the State Council.

The zone, the Binhai New Area, covering about 2,300 square kilometers (920 square miles), will seek to attract investors with preferential taxes.

The zone has also been

dubbed the 'Pudong of North China,' a reference to a part of Shanghai that in little more than a decade has been transformed from nothing into one of the most sophisticated high-tech finance centers in the world.

Tianjin is about 120 kilometers (75 miles) southeast of Beijing.

Interview with the editor:



City expansion and industrial belt development are inevitable in a period of rapid economic growth, such as the Chicago-Cleveland-Detroit belt in the US, or Tokyo-Osaka in Japan.

But we should keep in mind that many negative impacts will emerge after the exciting growth, such as the deterioration of living conditions, heavy pollution, and the headaches of

resolving the problems.

We are publishing this report just to remind us, both China and ourselves, of the necessity of carefully planned industrialization. Don't forget the only purpose of all development is to offer better living conditions for people.

– Adrienne Selko, editor, industryweek.com



Beijing to abolish traditional plow farming

Beijing, June 12 (AngolaPress.com) – Beijing has become the first area in China to announce the abolition of deep-plow farming methods in favor of environmentally friendly conservation tillage.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the municipal government jointly announced the program.

Under the agreement, both sides will invest 80 million yuan (US\$10 million) to promote conservation tillage methods to be used on more than 2.3 million mu (153,333 hectares) by 2008.

Conservation tillage is widely used globally, allowing plant waste to decompose into the soil as a natural fertilizer. The ground cover provided by the waste also prevents wind erosion.

Local officials believe the modern farming methods may help reduce sandstorms that plague Beijing every spring.

Traditional deep furrowing



Farmers are busy ploughing on the terrace after rainfalls.

(AP Photo)

and harrow-plowing cultivation methods have led to light soil grains and are a major contributor to sandstorms, environmentalists claim.

Tests showed that conservation tillage could reduce soil loss due to wind erosion by 50 percent.

It was also estimated that the city could save about 100 million cubic meters of water each year for every one million mu (66,666 hectares).

Interview with the editor:

China is a very important country we trust and want to cooperate with.

The three-decade long civil war in Angola ended in March 2002. Since then, China has strongly supported our efforts to rebuild the country. Many Chinese are now working here, under the US\$2 billion assistance package from the Chinese government.

Many people here are interested in the economic reforms, the culture, and way of living in China. We hope a richer and stronger China can benefit Africa.

Angola is the second largest oil producer in Africa, only after Nigeria. We also have rich diamond resources and minerals.

– Bedro Peter, int'l editor, Angola Press

Toilets to flush away Beijing drought



Urinals flush as visitors view from the outside of an ecological and environmentally friendly mobile toilet bus at the exhibition.

(Reuters Photo)

Beijing, June 7 (Reuters/greatnewsnetwork.org) – Beijingers can do their bit to ease the city's severe water shortage problem from their toilet seat, according to the Saving Water Toilet Exhibition that opened this week.

The exhibition showcased a range of prototype urinals, bowls, and traditional Asian crouching platforms aimed at having a more positive impact on the environment.

Beijing is the driest major city in the world and a report said it would face severe water shortages during the Olympics if current levels of consumption were maintained.

"This toilet saves water," said Zheng Qingzhan, manager of Kuge Bathroomware. "Most

toilets use six liters of water per flush, while this uses a maximum of 3.8 liters and as little as 2.6 liters."

Beijing Olympic organizers have made a 'Green Olympics' one of their core themes and Zhan Chunguo expects these toilets to play part.

"It's important for the Olympics because the athletes and coaches from around the world will see that China is serious in its attempts to save water, and they will spread the word," he said.

Also on display was a toilet in which 500 liters of water could be recycled for use for up to six months and facilities that use bacteria to break down the waste into gas and clean water.

Interview with the editor:

We published this report because it shows Beijing is taking positive steps to solve its water shortage issue.

I haven't been to Beijing and China before. But I am very interested in how Beijing plans to ease and solve the water shortage problem.

Many reports say that Beijing can not manage



this problem during its Olympic Games. We are really worried.

Even though I am not too confident, I am optimistic. China is now seen by much of the western world as a country that has the capacity (i.e. political system and financial resources) to take big steps to solve its problems, including the environmental problems.

– Ryan Logtenberg, atnewsnetwork.org

Gastronomic Michelin Delights

Hotel Kunlun, in partnership with the famed Le Cordon Bleu®, is proud to announce a fabulously gastronomic French Food Promotion from 7 to 21 July 2006.

Michelin Star Chef Bernard Guilhaudin of Le Cordon Bleu® Paris, and Master Pastry Chef Pierre Wolf, will demonstrate their skills through the 14th of July. Witness them prepare a nightly array of regional French dinners at the Summit Club, and exhibit their talents to industry experts and food enthusiasts during special cooking demonstrations.

For further details, kindly contact 6590 3388, extensions 8419 / 5195.

2 Xin Yuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100004 CHINA
Tel: 86-10 65903388 Fax: 86-10 65903228 / 65903214
E-mail: kunlunht@public3.bta.net.cn
www.hotelkunlun.com

Shoemakers to speak at EU anti-dumping hearing

Guangzhou, June 14 (chinaview.cn) – A Chinese shoemakers' alliance says it will send a delegation to attend a hearing organized by the European Union Trade Commission on the levy of anti-dumping taxes on Chinese shoes.

The hearing, scheduled to take place in Brussels of Belgium next Tuesday, was arranged at the request of China Alliance in Response to EU Anti-Dumping of Chinese Footwear.

Founded in April, the alliance comprises more than 150 shoemakers from regions such as Guangdong, Zhejiang, Fujian and Jilin provinces, with the purpose of mounting a joint defense against the EU anti-dumping duties.



Many Chinese make a living from shoemaking sector.

AFP Photo

A delegation consisting of eight to nine members, including attorneys, corporate executives will voice their opinions at next Tuesday's hearing, according to Wu Zhenchang, one of the members of the delegation.

Wu, also president of the board of Chuangxin Shoe Making Co. Ltd., based in Panyu, Guangdong Province, heralds the scheduled hearing as a platform where lies a new hope of regaining fair treatment for Chinese shoemakers on the overseas market.

"We should make every effort to fight for fair treatment of Chinese-made shoes on the international market by playing the rules of the World Trade Organization," says Wu.

Since April 7, the EU has

levied the duties on leather shoes made in China. The European Commission (EC), the EU executive body, has phased in a duty of 4.8 percent, rising to 19.4 percent in six months. The anti-dumping tariff now stands at 9.7 percent.

Zhu Feng, secretary-general of the Footwear and Leatherware Guild of Wenzhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province, describes EU's anti-dumping decision as biased and unfair.

"Anti-dumping will harm consumers in the EU the most," says Zhu, "EU should listen to the outcry of Chinese shoemakers and avoid the outcome of mutual destruction through dialogue and negotiations."

Final ruling of the forthcoming hearing will come out on October 7.

World Economic Forum opens Beijing office

Beijing, June 14 (emeconomy.com) – The World Economic Forum inaugurated its Beijing office today, which will become the global headquarters for the Forum's Center for Global Growth Companies.

It is the first Asian representative office, according to the forum's executive chairman Klaus Schwab.

British Airways' new baggage policies



Reuters Photo

New York, June 13 (PrimeZone) – British Airways is to introduce changes to its baggage policy from early July across the airline's global network.

The maximum size of the bag is 56cm x 45cm x 25cm or 22in x 18in x 10in. The weight for checked bag will be reduced to 23 kilograms, or 50 pounds.

Husky makes gas off China

Calgary, June 15 (Reuters) – Husky Energy Inc. said it has made a natural gas discovery in the South China Sea which could contain four trillion to six trillion cubic feet of recoverable resource.

Husky said the well, south of Hong Kong, is the first deep-water discovery off China's coast.

Air China plans US\$1 billion IPO in Shanghai

Shanghai, June 13 (AP) – Air China is planning an 8 billion yuan (US\$1 billion) initial public offering on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Air China, which has shares traded in Hong Kong, earlier said it plans to sell 2.7 billion yuan-denominated shares, or about 28.62 percent of its existing share capital, to qualified institutional investors.

ICBC to submit IPO application

Beijing, June 13 (XFN-ASIA) – Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) plans to submit an IPO application to the Hong Kong bourse on June 22.

The source said that ICBC is expected to list there in September, raising about HK\$100 billion.

The bank may then carry out its mainland listing before the end of this year, the official said.

China's trade surplus rising

Beijing, June 12 (AFP) – China's trade surplus hit a record US\$13 billion in May. Its trade surplus for the first five months was US\$46.79 billion, setting the nation on course to surpass last year's record surplus of US\$101.9 billion.

Forex reserves exceed US\$900 bln

Beijing, June 12 (Reuters) – China's foreign exchange reserves, the world's largest, have risen above US\$900 billion as a result of the nation's growing trade surplus.

"Imbalances in international payments have triggered some new problems which deserve our attention." The authorities needed to fine-tune policy to tighten liquidity, the official said.

China's foreign exchange reserves rose to a record US\$875.1 billion by the end of March.

Construction Bank tops bank's list

Beijing, June 14 (chinaview.cn) – China Construction Bank (CCB), which became the first of the 'big four' state lenders to go public last October, topped the list of 'China's top 100 banks' announced by the British finance magazine *The Banker*.

The Banker based the ratings on factors such as assets, pre-tax profits and capital asset ratio. CCB was followed by the other three big state banks – Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Agricultural Bank of China.

A CCB spokesman said shareholding reform and listing of its shares greatly contributed to corporate governance and business improvement at the bank.

CCB's core capital surged 47.1 percent from the previous year to 287.7 billion yuan in 2005, benefiting from a 72.6 billion yuan replenishment from its initial public offering, rise of operating income and more efficient risk control, the bank's spokesman said.

The bank's capital adequacy ratio, a measure of its own capital in proportion to its outstanding lending, also rose to 13.57 percent, already above the 8 percent international standard.

China approves Tamiflu production

Beijing, 13 June (BBC) – Shanghai Pharmaceutical Group has been approved by the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) to produce the anti-flu drug, Tamiflu. Meanwhile, a pharmaceutical factory in Shenzhen is licensed to produce ready-for-use injections, sources with the SFDA said.

Swiss pharmaceutical firm Roche invented the anti-virus Tamiflu, which is considered to be the most effective treatment available to counter the H5N1 strain of bird flu.

Tests showed the domestic Tamiflu was as effective and safe on humans as the imported version, said an official with the SFDA.

It will be used to treat type A and B flu in adults and children over the age of one, and to prevent type A and B flu in adults and youngsters over the age of 13.

The locally-made Tamiflu will be available by the end of June and will be only half price compared with those on the world market.



AFP Photo

Direct flights: a reality



After four years of trial direct chartered flights, Taipei finally agreed to increase the flights during major Chinese holidays, namely the Spring Festival, Ancestral Worshipping Day, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival.

Xinhua Photo

DoCoMo may seek China partner

Tokyo, June 13 (Bloomberg) – NTT DoCoMo Inc., the world's second-largest wireless company, may seek partners in China after the Chinese government issues licenses for high-speed networks to expand in the world's biggest mobile phone market.

The government is considering three different standards for its 3G network, TD-SCDMA, CDMA2000 and W-CDMA.

DoCoMo developed and operates W-CDMA system. The company has booked more than 1 trillion yen (US\$8.8 billion) losses from earlier investments in the US and Europe and is now targeting Asia.

Schiphol, Changi for China airport

Shanghai, June 13 (Reuters) – Schiphol Group of the Netherlands wants to take a majority stake in a Nanjing airport, joining in the battle against Singapore's Changi for the eastern China airport.

Singapore's Changi Airport had initially agreed to take a 45 percent in Lukou Airport for up to 1.6 billion yuan (US\$199.6 million). The talks have lasted for two years.

Lukou, situated about three hours' drive from China's commercial capital of Shanghai, handled 5.39 million passengers last year and is China's 15th busiest airport.



Kentucky fried, but in what oil?

By Patrick Cooper (USA Today)

Demanding healthier frying oil at KFC, the Center for Science in the Public Interest has filed a lawsuit against the popular chicken chain's parent company.

"Trans fat is almost everywhere on this menu. By frying in such a dangerous oil, KFC is making its unsuspecting consumers' arteries Extra Crispy," the center's executive director says in a press release. For the other side of the story, visit KFC's main nutrition page, which links to a calculator, a menu guide, and more. "We believe eating sensibly, combined with appropriate exercise, is the best solution for a healthy lifestyle," the page says.

Comments:

WE are absolutely responsible for what foods we choose to put in our bodies. However, the fast food industry and food manufacturers are even MORE responsible to let consumers know how their food is cooked and processed. At least then people can make an informed choice, even if it's not always necessarily a wise choice.

— Chris-Orlando

What I eat is MY business and my FAMILY's business, stay away Mr. Gov't Man, or we'll treat you like the revenueurs of old!

If you want to change MY CHOICES, offer me something better: flavor, price, quality, ease and/or simplicity

— Joe Enamelguy

We are responsible for our own health and the health of our children. If we want to grow old with sluggish systems and feeling bad that is exactly what we will get with a continuous diet of KFC and fast food. Wake up America!!

— shirley

Why can't everyone understand that we do all pay for the people who make bad choices? We all pay in increased costs and increased insurance premiums.

— We all pay

Anything fried is bad for your health. Eliminating trans fat is a good thing, but reducing all fat as much as possible is the right thing. Eliminating trans fat isn't the Holy Grail to good health.

When will we learn.... — Bob

It is already Federally mandated that nutrition information must be available. Check this stuff before you eat it!!! — Sig

I don't care if they do switch to different oil, but if it affects the flavor then I'll not go back. I love the taste of KFC original. How long are you expecting to live anyway? Enjoy life — it's too short. Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.

— Paul

Never mind that the CSPI is tightly aligned with the animal rights groups such as PETA. What they REALLY want is for you to stop eating meat of any kind. These "Save the Children" suits are just one of the tactics to limit your defenses in speaking against them.

— Bob

If they were putting arsenic or mercury in their food then people would be screaming bloody murder that they should be protected from KFC food and suing like crazy. What's the difference? KFC is cooking their food in

something that will kill you eventually. The only way they will change is through legal pressure. This is the only thing these giant multinationals understand.

— Ben

Being a former KCF employee, day after day I would see regular customers, come and go, and never think twice about what was in the food or how it was prepared. Although I was thankful for their repeated business as it paid my paycheck, I could no longer stand buy and sell products from a menu that almost 95% of it was saturated with trans fat, that I knew would some day help take someone else's father or family member away, and have the company do nothing about it.

— C.F.

However, this is the US, and every individual and/or business has the "constitutional" right to conduct business so long as it is legal. If a person wants to eat unhealthy, so be it. But don't blame the restaurant. They only provide for the demand.

— Angela

What has been your worst job?

By Guardian Unlimited

New legislation coming into effect this autumn means that councils will now be able to ban mobile street signs. This means, for instance, that the "golf sale" guys on Oxford Street could well be out of a job.

With the imminent demise of the sandwich board man, we would like to hear about the worst job YOU have ever had — whether menial and degrading, grimy and disgusting, or just boring beyond belief.

Comments:

Car park attendant. Part-time job while at university, 10 years ago.

Memorable Bad Day: fire alarm went off when I was the sole employee in charge of a very large 5-storey car park. In which

case I was to run around (like a headless chicken as it turned out) with a screwdriver trying to locate the actual alarm, which had been set off, replace the broken glass to stop the siren. I gave up in despair round the third floor, ran back down to my tiny booth by which time there was a long queue of VERY disgruntled car drivers waiting. Finally stopped that insanely loud alarm by ripping the wires out from the main box.

— charcot

I was once a door to door dried flowers and pot pourri salesman.

— MWinMilan

I was, for a while, the guy who put the butter on the sandwich board men. Terrible job.

— chutney

In my experience it is never the nature of the job that is the 'worst', but the nature of the people offering it.

— oldsmiler

Worst job: work a night shift in a crisp packing factory, filling boxes with a particularly pungent flavor of crisp shaped like a children's TV character. You had to count 48 packs into each box, while also keeping track in your head of how many boxes you'd filled a) in the past hour and b) in total during the shift. It was the counting that drove me mad, but the speed of the conveyor belt delivering the crisps didn't help — just too fast for me to keep up with, so that after a while crisp packets started to build up around my ankles. Four hours into the shift, I decided not to come back

the next night, and felt much better for it.

— Diva

My worst job was a summer position at a newly opened Cafe on Kew Road when I was the tender age of 18. I started at 6:30 in the morning because the place was a bakery as well. I was baking bread, making sandwiches and salads and cleaning the whole place as well as getting treated like a rag by a chain-smoking lady manager with a huge chip on her shoulder.

I was also confined to the kitchen area, as the clients would be put off by my presence on the cafe floor, of course! To top it all up, they had promised me £4 and hour only for me to find out after 3 weeks that the going rate was £1.20! When I complained to the boss, he made me feel like I

Weekly topics

Newsweek (USA)

1. Mexico: wooing young voters
2. World market risks
3. Is US ready for wave of Iraq vets?
4. New job help for returning vets
5. Her body: tips on living longer

The New York Times (USA)

1. Breast-feed or else
2. Hiding in plain sight, Google seeks more power
3. At 190 M.P.H., who needs a spare tire?
4. Outspoken new Englander is new poet laureate
5. Frugal traveler: seeking bargains on the Dalmatian coast

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Average house price in big cities tops \$300,000
2. Two jailed in Nigerian letter scam
3. Better care could save lives, stroke group says
4. Man must colonize space, Hawking says
5. Canadian women stabbed in New York

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Civil servants 'jumped naked off filing cabinets'
2. French presidential hopeful voted one of sexiest women
3. Church has fallen apart since I was in charge, says Carey
4. World's funniest joke was written by Spike Milligan
5. US 'to keep 50,000 troops in Iraq for many years'

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

1. Men tried to lure girl, 15, to their cabin
2. Bikini auction upsets lover
3. Traffic hazard ahead: vegan cyclists
4. Plea for freedom by woman who had her father killed
5. Double trouble

was very demanding and raised my pay to a blazing £1.70 an hour — at which point I told him to stick it and left.

— dv42ouk

I put shampoo bottles in boxes from a conveyor belt for six hours one night.

I lasted one night.

— Automaton

Worst job ever? Working in a Midlands pork pie and quiche factory. My job was to stand next to a massive extrusion unit that shat beef and onion mix into pie cases. I was given a spoon and told to spread the foul smelling dollops evenly within the cases as they advanced towards me on a conveyor belt. Shifts lasted for 12 hours at a time. Sanity was spent within two.

— Quin

(By Jiang Xubo)

The formalization of a fad



A camping trip for two Frenches in the spring to Huailai, Hebei Province

By Annie Wei

As a once-inspired *laowai* switch to sidecar motorcycles spirals inexorably towards becoming a cliché, the CMC Motorcycle club was officially launched last Sunday.

The former German-produced CJ750, now only produced in the Urals in Russia and in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, has found its way into the hearts of the foreign community.

The CMC Motorcycle club is run by four men: Keith Perron from Canada, Nick May from the USA, and their two Chinese business partners Ken Zhang and Shang Jingguo.

To celebrate the launching of the club, Perron said that they were organizing around 30 to 40 sidecars to participate in a trip to celebrate the second anniversary on Sunday of the Trans-Siberian Beijing to Berlin.

Co-founder Shang was one of participants on the 2004 adventure by sidecar from Beijing to Berlin.

The other enthusiasts were: Rene Egle (Germany), Peter Schamburg (Germany), Matthias Schepp (Germany), Richard George (UK) and Shang Jingguo (China) owner of CJ Motorcycles.

Four CJ750 sidecars were used to travel 7,355 kilometers (4,570 Miles) from Beijing via Inner Mongolia, Mongolia, Russia, Estonia, followed by a ferry across the Baltic Sea to Sweden, before the final push towards Germany. The trip took one month and included days off for rest and repairs.

Perron said, "The CMC Motorcycle mainly attracts overseas motorcycle fans who like to travel around China."

Other events that the club has organized included a trip to Dandong, Liaoning Province to the China/North Korean border, and personal tours for private individuals to Huanghuacheng.

"We are planning one trip from Beijing to London, which might take place next year," Perron said.



A break for sore bums

Photos provided by CMC

National coach pitches softball to the youth

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Young softball players were treated to a special training session on World Softball Day last Sunday with Michael Bastian, the head coach of the National Softball Team of China.

Young players from local junior schools that turned up to Beijing Muxiyuan Sporting School were surprised and excited by his professional training.

The national team and three hundred amateur players from Beijing University Softball Association, the National Softball Association and local schools played together and discussed training and the joys of playing softball.

"Balance! Balance!" Bastian kept shouting while catching the ball thrown by the young pitchers. "Try to leave your weight on one leg and keep your balance. The better you balance, the faster you will be."

A queue of eager young players formed behind him. "His teaching is really excellent! He told us to keep our power along one line, and it worked," said Jiao Chenxi, a 13-year-old pitcher from the softball team of the Middle School attached to Beijing Institute of Technology. Bastian said she was a potential "the national player in the future."

Huarun Paints Holdings, sponsored the event and provided all the players' uniforms and facilities.

Bastian, from the US, has coached many different levels around the world during his twenty-year career. In 2003, he coached the national team of the US during Junior Women's World Championship.

Tibetan fusion music concert a success

By Chen Shasha

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) held a music concert named *Searching for the Dreamland of Shambala* last weekend in the Central Conservatory of Music.

Four Tibetan classical music composers, who come from the area where the WWF is carrying out community project work, have combined classical music with Tibetan folk music for the concert.

As Tibet becomes more and more accessible to the outside world, it faces a severe threat of overexploitation of its nature resources. The WWF has been supporting community-based conservation in Tibet since the 1990s, especially around the Shangri-La region. The community action research projects, featuring environmental education, were launched by the WWF.

Greenpeace showcases peasant photographers



The exhibition

Photo by Wang Xiaoyuan

By Wang Xiaoyuan

A Greenpeace exhibition of photos taken by five Yunnan farmers held at the Capital Library last week shows that you don't have to be a professional photographer to produce stunning images.

The exhibition, entitled *Rice is Life: Five Farmers' Lens*, was the result of a one-year project. The

five photographers, Li Mingfu, Xiong Guizhi, Ma Meiyun, Li Zikang, and Bai Yuxian, are all farmers from ethnic minority counties in Yunnan Province. They were given a Contax camera each, and shot photos of their lives and rice farming from spring to winter during the year.

Visitors and local photographers all agreed that although

these photos reveal a lack of professional skills (and some even violate the rules of photography), the originality and truthfulness in them present an intimate perspective of the lives of these farmers.

Xiong Guizhi, 41, Pumi ethnic minority, from Pantiange County, Weixi Town, lives with her husband, in laws, a son and a daughter. People in her county are not used to having their photos taken, so Guizhi often hid by the roadside and jumped out to take a photo. Gradually, people found out about her and invited her to take some photos of some events in town.

John Novis, from England, the photo manager of Greenpeace International, was one of the originators of the *Rice is Life* idea. He said, "A professional photographer may just shoot from a western angle, or a tourist angle. The five photographers are very familiar with the villages and people

there, so only they can capture some moments in a natural way. That was amazing."

The Green Peace started their tour in Yunnan in October 2004 in an attempt to trace the origins of rice. Yunnan is one of the places where rice was first planted. "Our task was to help the farmers there to access to more developed farming tools and concepts to improve the balance between farming and environmental protection," said John. "However, when I saw the way people lived there, I found that their farming methods and knowledge was so well founded that they did not need to change at all. You can't just say that their life is simply poverty because they are such a close community and so rich in culture."

John also mentioned that Green Peace is setting up an image unit in Beijing. A full-time officer is required and many freelance photographers are required.

Blue skies over hot tarmac

By Annie Wei

With unusual blue skies and high temperature, all races got off to a flying start at the Goldenport Motor Park last Sunday as the drivers exploited the dry surface in their quest for domination at the final leg of the Asian Festival of Speed (AFOS).

In the ATCC event Franz Engstler from Germany for the Engstler Motorsports team entered the competition as favorite, but had an accident in the afternoon race.

In the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia (PCCA), Yan Lu of SCC-rac-

ing team was tipped for top spot, but ended up sixth.

According to the organizers, some racers did not qualify because of mechanical failure, while others were suffering from food poisoning.

The different racing categories were: Asian Touring Car Championship (ATCC), Formula V6 Asia by Renault, Porsche Carrera Cup Asia and Formular BMW Asia. Each race had ten teams, and all races were packed into a tight schedule.

Motorsport Asia Ltd, organizer of the AFOS, said the event

SCC Racing Team leading in the PCCA



Photo by Li Peijing

is recognized as Asia's premier motor sports event. It runs annually from March to November at eight different venues through-

out Asia, claims to bring the event live to more than 300,000 spectators, and captures wide media coverage.

Cheers for the World Cup

By Han Manman

Bars, restaurants, night clubs and other entertainment venues are gearing up to attract soccer fans looking to find a place where they can cheer their national squad during the World Cup in Germany. So are fans from different embassies and commercial chambers.

On Monday evening, football fans from the Australian Cham-

ber of Commerce in Beijing were gathering at the Swedish W-Bar to cheer for their national team. "It's been a long and frustrating wait but Australia are finally back at the World Cup finals after a 32-year absence," said Nicholas Wolf. He said this football party was organized very quickly.

His friend Edward Smith added, "We will hold a football

party whenever there is an Australia match." And the Australian fans had something to cheer about. The match finished 3-1.

As the host nation of the World Cup, the largest embassy event was held at the German embassy. The team played the opening game of the tournament, and the embassy held a midnight soccer party during the match between

Germany and Costa Rica. A seven meter high TV screen was set up in the embassy. Hundreds of people were invited and guests gathered in a flag-decked auditorium to down Munich beer and bratwurst and watch the Germans smash Costa Rica 4-2. Which country will win the World Cup? Dr Volker Stanzel, the German ambassador said, "Germany of course."

Korean crowds celebrate goals galore

By Annie Wei

Thousands of Korean football fans gathered in Wudaokou crossroads and caused a two-hour-long traffic jam Tuesday night. It was right after the Korean team beat off Togo in the World Cup in Germany.

Although the Korean supporters were not violent, local police had to send a dozen patrol cars to the site.

At midnight on Wednesday morning, many Korean fans hung around the west side of Wudaokou subway, cheering, playing drums, and waving Korean flags. Most of them were young Koreans, dressed in the red Korean team uniform and wearing colorful face paint.

With so many fans standing in the middle of the crossroads, traffic in four directions was stopped. Local policemen had to persuade fans to leave the main road.

At 12:30 am Wednesday morning, celebrating Korean fans moved to the sidewalk to continue their celebrations.

The celebrations were spontaneous. People sang Korean national songs, and took pictures with friends or other Korean team supporters in the street.

But local residents who live in that area were not happy. They complained that they had woken the whole neighborhood.

World Cup clamp down on drunk drivers

By Chen Shasha

A special inspection on drunk drivers has been carried out around Sanlitun and Houhai during the World Cup, by the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau.

"Football makes people very excited, but we hope it won't cause accidents," said Qi Qin, an official from the Traffic Management Bureau. He claimed that hundreds of policemen were sent out on the 24 hour inspection. In Chaoyang District, 50 police were taking it in turns to inspect SanLitun.

Some drivers continued drinking while watching the football. Mr Zhang, an office worker, sitting outside a bar said, "A little beer is hard to discover, and how can you watch an-hour-long football game without any beer?"



The Netherlands longs to win

Dutch fans cheer their team in its first match in this year's World Cup with Serbia and Montenegro in June 11.
Photo by Happy Hu



Moscow culture comes to Beijing

By Chu Meng

Moscow is displaying its cultural brilliance to residents in Beijing during a cultural week launched this Wednesday in a preparation for the China Year in Russia in 2007.

Led by the Mayor of Moscow Yuri Luzhkov, a delegation of over 270 governmental officials and artists arrived at Beijing and will treat the local people to a variety of cultural feasts.

Moreover, two open-air dancing and singing shows will be on stage in Minzu Gong Grand Theater and Beijing Exhibition Center during the weekend. An exhibition of science and technology named Moscow Today, highlighting achievements in electronic telecommunications, information technologies, and urban architecture will be held at the same time. A series of economic and trading forums participated in by both Chinese and Russian entrepreneurs during the exhibition is also anticipated.

Beijing and Moscow established a sister-city relationship in 1995 and a wide range of cooperation has been ongoing since.



Guests tasting Arabian food

Photo by Tian Yufeng

Arabic art festival unveiled in Beijing

By Chu Meng

The Arab League, which comprises 22 member countries, will jointly hold the first Arabic Art Festival of China in Beijing and Nanjing from next Friday. The event will celebrate the success of the second Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab

Cooperation Forum early this month.

The festival will raise the curtain on Arabic traditional culture exhibition in Beijing Capital Museum. Then Cultural ministers from both China and the Arabic league, and embassy officials will participate in a series of

round table conferences, to share views on better cultural communication.

A dancing team from Syria will perform in the Great Hall of the People with the Silk Road as the theme, which has origins in both Chinese and Arabic civilization. People can also enjoy authentic Arab cuisine.

Helsinki design hits Beijing

By Chu Meng

The mayor of Helsinki, Jussi Pajunen, brought Helsinki's avant-garde urban architecture to Beijing with his official visit on Wednesday.

Tsinghua University hosts a 20-day show of photographs on Finnish contemporary urban architecture by Jussi Tiainen. At the show, Finnish chair and

textile print designs will also be displayed.

The show was under the joint auspices of the government of Helsinki and the Finnish Embassy in Beijing.

The architectural photographer Jussi Tiainen said, "Helsinki is a mecca of contemporary architecture." Labeled one of the best-designed cities

in the world, the capital of Finland has seen more significant contemporary buildings constructed in the past few years than any place in Europe.

The second fastest growing metropolis in the European Union, Helsinki's harmonious urban milieu is the result of a close cooperation between the urban planners and architects.

"A heritage of good architecture and urban design has prevailed in Helsinki since the times of Eliel Saarinen and Alvar Aalto. But nowadays the scene is even wider, in terms of both new generations of architects and the rapid yet carefully planned development of the city," Jussi said.

Cherry Lane gets a samba flavor

By Annie Wei

Cherry Lane Movies, which presents Chinese movies with English subtitles brings something totally different this week: Beijing's first Latin American movie festival.

Cherry Lane Movies said the

films would include recently released features from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and other Latin American countries.

Days of Santiago (2004), will be shown on Friday. Saturday will have two *My Life without*

Me and A House with a View of the Sea, and Sunday has *The Art of Losing* and *Duck Season*.

The event is organized by the social-cultural nonprofit Group of Iberian-Latin American Residents, and is presented by the National Federation of Coffee

Growers of Columbia.

Cherry Lane Movies said that attendees would be savor Latin food, wines and exotic cocktails before or after each screening. Some evenings will include live professional Latin dance like Brazilian Samba and Argentinean Tango.

South African ambassador donates money to orphans

By Han Manman

The South African Ambassador Ndumiso Ntshinga presented 15,000 yuan as a donation to the Bethel Foster Home for blind and visually impaired orphans on Tuesday.

The funds were raised from the proceeds and donations at the South African Charity Golf Tournament, organized by the South African Embassy in Beijing as part of its annual activities surrounding the Freedom Day celebrations that took place from April 27 to 29.

As a token of the friendship and cooperation between the peoples of South Africa and China, the South African Embassy saw it fit and appropriate to raise funds for the physically impaired children as part of its National Day celebrations.

The Bethel Foster Home was founded in 2003 as a non-governmental organization to care, educate and train the blind and visually impaired Chinese orphans towards professional independence in a home environment.

Raising cash for kids

By Tom Mackenzie

A barbeque fundraiser for 80 vulnerable kids raised over 95,000 yuan on Saturday.

Around 350 people flocked to the event, held at the Belgian Embassy in Sanlitun.

It had been organized by Belgian charity Morning Tears, which cares for children whose parents are in prison or have been sentenced to death, children who have suffered abuse and orphans.

"The event wasn't just about raising money, it was about telling people what we do and raising the charity's profile," said Koen Sevenants from Morning Tears. "There are large numbers of chil-

dren who need care in China and we're doing our best to help them. But we want to improve our psychological care and have a more systematic follow up of the children we look after. The money we raised on Saturday will help us do that."

Much of the cash will be used to help improve the lives of around 80 orphaned and abandoned kids living in a 'children's village' in Xi'an. The charity provides them with food, clothes and medical and psychological care.

For more information about the work of Morning Tears, to sponsor a child or to make a donation, go to www.morningtears.org.

AmCham-China presents Olympic marketing

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The China office of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham-China) held an Olympic forum to give an overview of marketing initiatives for 2008 in Beijing American Club this Wednesday.

Colin Pine, co-chairman of AmCham-China, acted as the moderator of the forum. Erica Kerner, head of Adidas 2008 Beijing Olympic program, introduced their strategies to maximize its long standing history as a partner of Olympics, and the plan for Beijing 2008. Leon Xie, marketing director from Lenovo, gave a presentation about his experience of Lenovo's debut in Torino early this year.

Christopher Renner, managing partner of Prescient Marketing Ltd., who has been in Sports Marketing including FIFA, IOC (International Olympic Committee), ATP (Association of Tennis Professional) and Asian Games for twenty-five years, brought his opinions on what international companies can take away and apply to their own logistics for the Beijing Olympics.

Around the world on a Vespa

By Chu Meng

A frontier-busting, Vespa-riding adventurer, Giorgio Bettinelli, who has covered a quarter million kilometers so far, launched his China trip in Tiananmen Square this Monday, with the sponsorship of the Italian Embassy.

Giorgio Bettinelli, an Italian who has been living in China for the last two and a half years, is in the planning stages of a four-year grand tour of the world. He vowed "I will not stop until I have visited all 198 countries of the world. China is the 198th. I am now going to set out on this new trip, which will be the hardest, most risky, and probably also my last."

"In terms of culture, China is the most remote and mysterious country. In terms of natural environment, China is the most diverse. Though Canada, America and Australia have a similar size to China, they don't compare geographically and in terms of climatic differences. So I see China as my last target to conquer," said Bettinelli.

In 1992, Giorgio Bettinelli was 37 years old and living in a village in Indonesia. A friend gave him a second-hand Vespa from the 1970s. In just three weeks, he drove the old Vespa over 2,000 kilometers through Java, Sumatra, and Bali. Then he returned to Italy with a dream that sounded like madness, but which he's managed to turn into reality.



World champion Martin Johnson helping to develop rugby

Photo provided by mjcamp.com

Rugby stars touchdown on Monday

By Tom Mackenzie

Rugby legends Martin Johnson and Rory Underwood will team up with Dulwich College Beijing next week when they jet to China to promote the sport.

The English sporting heroes – Johnson led England to World Cup glory in 2003 and Underwood played for England and Leicester Tigers – will be met off the plane by a delegation of students from the school when they touchdown on Monday.

The following day they will put the pupils' skills to the test when they hold a rugby clinic at Dulwich College.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for us," said Bill Jarvis, director

of studies at the school. "As well as academic excellence, we want to be recognized for our rugby and cricket. It's fantastic that we were selected to take part in this event."

Dulwich College sees itself as a pioneer in promoting rugby in Beijing. In the first term of this school year the Australian army rugby team took part in coaching lessons with pupils at the school and the following term they hosted Australia coach Eddie Jones.

Mr Jarvis believes the Leicester Tigers goodwill tour will be a further boost for rugby in Beijing – for international and local kids.

"It fits in with our program of trying to set up links with local

schools that go beyond education. For example, they might share their knowledge of baseball with us and we will share our knowledge of cricket and rugby with them. I think in two to three years you will see schools competing against each other. Rugby is definitely starting to take off in Beijing."

China's rugby union was set up in 1997. As well as the national team, there are believed to be up to 40 other active teams across China, most of them at universities.

"Rugby is still at a very embryonic stage in China but the structures are all in place," said Mark Thomas, director of S2M Group,

which is organizing the tour. "A while ago Leicester came up with the idea of looking elsewhere in the world to develop themselves as a club and to see what they can give back to the sport. The idea is to come here, understand and learn. They want to engage with the rugby community out here to understand what is going on and how they can help."

"Leicester want to lay down their commitment to the sport in China on one hand and on the other hand they want to build their brand over here. Rugby has a long way to go before it becomes as popular as basketball or football, but it won't be long before it starts really taking off."

BSB end of year speech day

By Niall O Murchadha

The British Ambassador to China, William Ehrman CMG, will be in attendance at the end of year prize-giving ceremony at The British School of Beijing on June 17.

The ambassador will hand out prizes to students who have excelled during the year, all of whom will be hoping to clinch the sought-after House Trophy.

The event is also the annual Speech Day, with speeches by the Head Teacher of the British School of Beijing, Gilbard Honey-Jones, as well as the Head Boy and Head Girl.

Conference Center, Kunlun Hotel, 10 am. Call 8532 3088

School summer spruce up

By Tom Mackenzie

Yew Chung International School will undergo extensive renovations over the next two months as part of a summer spruce-up.

Classrooms at the school, near Honglingjin Park in Chaoyang, will be enlarged, a new cafeteria and medical room built and facilities across the school improved.

"During the summer, we will be undertaking a number of additional building projects, including new offices in block B, a new look uniform room and enlarging classrooms," said school co principal Nick Combes. "When we commence school in August, another step in the growth and development of providing modern facilities to house both students and teachers will be achieved."

N W 北京 BEIJING TODAY

Repackaging Promotion

English

Subscribe for a year: ¥104.00 Now only ¥88.00

Subscribe for a year and have the newspapers for 13 months!

Subscription Hotline 010-65902626 bjtoday@ynet.com

Promotion ends on 30th June, 2006

20%
off

Subscription Promotion

Putting your Mandarin skills to the test

By Wang Xiaoyuan

What is HSK?

HSK is the abbreviation of the pinyin "Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi". It is a standardized test at the state level designed and developed by the HSK Center of BLCU to assess the Chinese skills of non-native speakers, including expatriates, overseas Chinese and students of Chinese national minorities.

According to an investigation done by the Ministry of Education, from 1990 to the end of 2005, over a million expatriate students had taken the test. The test system itself is also developing and improving.

There are currently four levels of the test: HSK Threshold (for those who have taken courses of Chinese for 80 to 300 hours), HSK Basic (100 to 800 hours), Elementary-Intermediate (400 to 2000 hours) and Advanced (over 3000 hours or proficient at similar standard). The test is held regularly in China and other countries each year.

Why take HSK?

The function of HSK Certificates is to certify that the holder has acquired the required Chinese proficiency to enter a college or university as an undergraduate or graduate student (the result of the HSK is one important condition for applying to study in China); to certify that the holder can be exempt from taking the Chinese language course depending on the level of certification; and as a basis for employers to evaluate the Chinese proficiency of their job applicants.

Sun Dejin, the director of the HSK center, introduced the new test to all students. He said, "By taking the HSK test, students can have an idea of their Chinese proficiency. If you pass the threshold, it means that your Chinese is good enough to solve problems of daily life or traveling. Threshold test papers are available in three different lan-

Nearly 600 people from over 30 countries completed the first HSK Threshold test – a Chinese language proficiency exam – at the end of May. The tests were held in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Dalian.

The test, for non-Chinese native speakers who have been studying Mandarin for less than 300 hours, was set up by the Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU).



Learning chinese

Photo provided by Beijing Foreign Study University

guages: English, Japanese and Korean."

Hong Changyu, from South Korea, who is now studying Chinese at BLCU, said, "Many of my friends are considering coming to China to learn the language, as Chinese is increasingly becoming one of the foreign languages required by employers, especially international trade companies."

How to sign up for an HSK test

1. Candidates should bring two recent 30 x 40 mm photos without headwear when registering and present a photo-bearing identification, such as a passport or residence permit.

2. Candidates have to pay the fees for the test and registration. In China, it is 200 yuan for HSK Basic, 250 yuan for HSK Elementary-Intermediate and 400 yuan for HSK Advanced (contact local test centers to find out about fees to be paid in other countries or by students of ethnic minorities.)

Fees for the test and registration are non-refundable. And postage is included in the fees.

3. Candidates living where there are no local test centers can register by mail. Visit the website <http://www.hsk.org.cn/english/default.aspx> to see all the details. No telephone registration will be accepted. An admission ticket will be given to the candidate in person upon his or her arrival at the test site.

4. Candidates will be given the admission ticket and the *HSK User Handbook*. Candidates shall take the exam according to the time and place specified on the admission ticket.

How to prepare for HSK

As HSK is not based on any particular textbook or course of study, applicants may refer to any textbook in preparation for the test. It is important to read the *HSK Test Syllabus* carefully. It is a guide for the pre-test preparation, containing an introduction

to the test, a sample test paper and the key HSK glossary and a CD of the sample listening questions. The guide will reach you with your test tickets after registration.

Question types:

Listening:

True or False: there will be a picture on your paper, and you will hear some description of it. Choose Yes, No, or Not mentioned.

Reading:

Vocabulary: one word in a sentence will be underlined, choose the correct meaning from four choices.

Short passage reading: read a passage, and answer some questions about it.

Writing:

This is to test your understanding of Chinese characters. You will be given characters and asked to compose words and sentences. For the advanced test, you will need to write a short article.

What to do if you lose your passport

By Annie Wei

Lizzie Malkani, a 19-year-old from Australia, lost her bag while touring the Temple of Heaven with her boyfriend.

The Exit and Entry Bureau of Beijing gets many reports of lost items from tourists, especially during the summer, when the new tourist season begins.

So what can Lizzie do?

If the person who picked up her bag wants to get money from it they will find it difficult: her credit card has a password and her travel checks can only be

cashied with her signature. She could always contact her parents back home and ask them to deal with the banks and send her out some money.

The main concern is her passport. Lizzie knows she can get help from the Australian Embassy. But after she gets a new passport and exit travel documents issued by the embassy, she may still need something when she leaves China.

The exit and entry bureau have a snappy term for cases like Lizzie's, they call it "Application

for replacement visa on reissued passport".

To get the replacement visa, Lizzie needs to:

1. Ask the embassy to issue her a new passport, or the substitute as an exit travel document.

2. Ask the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) for a loss report certificate.

3. Go to the exit and entry bureau to fill in an entry visa/resident permit application form.

4. Attach a recent two-inch photo with pale blue background. The approval upon submis-

sion of requisite documents will take five working days (not including Saturday) when applications are collected.

If you lose your passport, report it to the local PSB.

If, for example, you lose something in the Temple of Heaven, do not report to the PSB in your home district but to the one nearest the temple. Ask staff in the temple for the nearest station.

Another advantage of reporting to the nearest PSB is that someone may pick up whatever you have lost and send it there.

ASK Beijing Today

This week Greg from the US asked two questions:

1. I've wondered where to find the best TV Guide for Chinese TV

A: Every Monday morning, you can get a free copy of Beijing broadcasting and TV newspaper or China broadcasting and TV newspaper by spending one yuan for a copy of *Beijing Youth Daily*, in any newsstand.

Take the Beijing broadcasting and TV newspaper for example; it has 40 pages, including columns like program schedules of the week, interviews with actors and actresses, introductions to current episodes and advertising. This week's newspaper has an article about Dashan, (Mr. Roswell), a Canadian TV personality who is known and loved by millions of Chinese people for his linguistic skills.

2. I'd like to know more about those stories that cab drivers listen to on the radio, there's one guy with a very distinctive old voice

A: This is *pingshu*, popular tales or *quyi*, a form of oral storytelling. It is popular in northern China and developed into an independent art form in the early years of the Qing Dynasty (late 17th century). Although *pingshu* is performed orally, *pingshu* artists in the early period developed it from *changqu*, or melody singing.

In the early period, a *pingshu* performer wore a gown and sat behind a table with a folded fan and a gavel (serving as a prop to strike the table as a warning to the audience to be quiet or as a way of attracting attention in order to strengthen the effect of the performance, especially at the beginning, or during intervals). However, these props had all disappeared by the mid-1920s, with the performer appearing only in a standing position in a gown or any other kind of clothes.

The storytellers often added their own commentaries on the subjects and the characters and performed in different styles. In the storytelling, the tellers explained the origins of the stories. And the audience, while watching their performances, were not only entertained, but also educated and enlightened.

In the 1920s, most *pingshu* was performed in teahouses. Tea drinkers could sip the tea while listening to the *pingshu*. Famous novels such as *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and serialized novels all emerged under the influence of the storytelling artists. As a result, many great writers continued from there to tread the path of literature.

In 1970s, when TV and other kinds of entertainment activities were not as widespread as they are today, *pingshu* was an important broadcasting phenomenon. Many people, no matter what age they were, loved to listen to *pingshu* on the radio. And the stories have developed from those referring to times gone by to modern detective stories and western-style tales.

(By Annie Wei)

2006 French Exhibit

By Gareth George

Following the China/France cultural exchange year, the two countries pooled their minds to continue the cultural cross-over. In an effort to bring world culture to the people of China, Ling Fei and the French Western and Eastern Culture association invited French documentary filmmakers to show their work in China's capital.

More than 30 films have been given screen time. The directors of the documentaries are masters like Jean Renoir, George Franju, Jean Gremillon, Yannick Bellon, Joris Ivens, Agnes Varda, Pierre Prevert, Jean Rouch, Chris Marker, Alain Resnais, Raymond Depardon, Bertrand Tavernier, Nicolas Philibert and Hubert Sauper. Through the exhibition, they will provide Beijing with an insight into Gallic life, and the event will generate an echo – a reflection – between the two cultures.

When the exhibition winds up on June 18, a similar event, showing Chinese documentaries, will be held in Paris.

The French Western and Eastern Culture association was established in 1995 as a mode of communication between the European and Asian culture, with a commitment to active involvement in cultural projects.

The association hopes that the documentary festival will encourage academics and professionals to take documentary movie making more seriously, and to encourage the development of the Chinese documentary film. This cultural exchange can best be viewed as an opportunity for the young people of both cultures to learn and borrow from each other.

An interview with Ling Feng

Renowned photographer and festival organiser

Q: What do you think China and France can learn from each other on this cultural exchange?

A: 'Exchange' means communication. Our target is to communicate with each other. China and France share many similar features, such as the long cultural history and people's sense of romance. However, we still have a lot of differences. Documentary films would build a good channel to reflect a real French society to Chinese people. Through this, different cultures can understand each other, which is a kind of social comprehension alongside the economic globalization. Although documentary films can lack entertainment and popularity, they express the real society and offer us admonishment and revelation of life. This program is to introduce French culture through documentary film. It is a good way for us to communicate with each other.

Q: Why do you think it is important to encourage the popularity of documentary films in China?

A: China is experiencing one of the most important innovation periods in history. We have been facing lots of conflict and bewilderment. Therefore, documentary films with their calm and rational reflection of society should be encouraged to help us deal with the complex problems and understand society better.

Visions de France

The French love their documentaries. Audiences are not only getting bigger, they're getting broader – people from all sections of French society enjoy film that reflects reality.

French cinemagoers and movie producers see documentary as a serious alternative to 'story telling' movies, that can evoke the same range of emotions.

The Visions of France documentary festival began on June 2. It ends this Sunday.

Visions of France will display documentaries from 1928 to the present day.

The (free) viewing locations are Xidan Square, the Cineclub Beijing, and the French Cultural Center.



Ling Feng

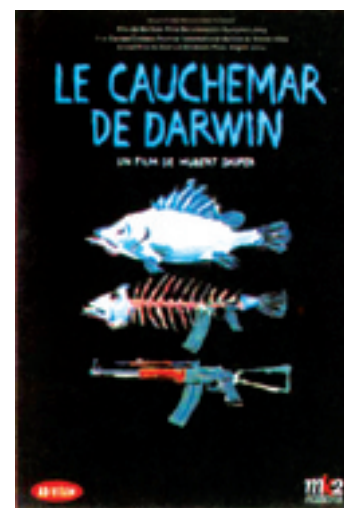
Q: Has the event been difficult to organize? Were both the French and Chinese eager to pool their energies?

A: This event has been prepared for two years and is one of the programs in 2005 Sino-French Cultural Year. The documentary festival had to start in 2006 because of the busy schedules. The biggest problem was the delay of the event which resulted in the loss of some initial French sponsors. However, thanks to a great effort from the French and Chinese governments, and our sponsors the event has successfully begun.

Q: Is there any special event to mark the end of the festival?

A: A seminar will be held at Communication University of China from June 19 to 20. Some of the directors and a professor from Paris University, will attend. After the festival we will publish a book on the content of French documentary films in China.

(Translated by Iris Fan)



Hubert Sauper and Darwin's Nightmare

Hubert Sauper has lived in the UK, Italy, the USA, and for the last 12 years, in France.

He directed his first documentary in 1988. He made *Kisangani Diary* in 1997, *Far From Rwanda* in 1998, *Only With Our Stories* in 2001 and in 2004, *Darwin's Nightmare*.

Since 2004, *Darwin's Nightmare* has won the Best European Documentary Film, the Prix Europa Cinemas at the Venice Festival 2004, Best Documentary at the Montreal Festival 2004 and a Cesar in 2006.

Hubert Sauper will be present in Beijing June 16 to 18 to present his film. He will also take questions from the audience on:

Friday June 16 at 6:30pm in the French Cultural Center

Sunday June 18 at 7pm in the

ch Documentary dition

13

Center stage

Sans Soleil

"A MASTERPIECE... MARKER'S
RICHEST WORK TO DATE"
Steven Simmons, The Movies

Sans Soleil, Chris Marker

Cineclub Beijing

Darwin's Nightmare

France

2003, 107 minutes

French with Chinese subtitles

The banks of the largest tropical lake of the world, considered the cradle of humanity, are a theater of nightmares. In Tanzania, in the 60s, the Nile perch fish was introduced into Lake Victoria. Like a pack of man-eating tigers being introduced to an old folks home, they decimated practically the entire indigenous fish population was decimated. This modification of the ecosystem caused chain reactions not only on an ecological level but also the local economy, society, politics in and the military. With the death of their lake, locals turned their trade south, toward a new industry: weapons.



A scene from Darwin's Nightmare



*Naissance du Cinema,
Roger Leenhardt*



*Le Chagrin et la Pitie, Marcel
Ophuls*

Screenings: French Cultural Center

- Friday June 16 at 6:30pm
Darwin's Nightmare, Hubert Sauper, 2003 (107 min)

Screenings: Cineclub Beijing

- Friday June 16 at 7pm
 - *The Life is Us*, Jean Renoir, 1936 (66 min)
 - *Night and Fog*, Alain Resnais, 1956 (30 min)
 - *Destroyed Time*, Pierre Beuchot, 1985 (73 min)
- Saturday June 17 at 1:30pm
 - *On June six with L'paddle*, Jean Gremillon, 1945 (33 min)
 - *Guernica*, A. Resnais and R.Hessens, 1950 (12 min)
 - *Far from Vietnam*, J.Ivens and J-L.Godard, 1967 (120 min)
- Saturday June 17 at 7pm
 - *Reporters*, Raymond Depardon, 1980 (90 min)
 - *Urgencies*, Raymond Depardon, 1987 (100 min)
- Sunday June 18 at 1:30pm
 - *In Connection with Nice*, Jean Vigo, 1930 (23 min)
 - *Recovery*, Herve the Russet-red one, 1995 (192 min)
- Sunday June 18 at 7pm
 - *Darwin's Nightmare*, Hubert Sauper, 2003 (107 min)

French Cultural Center

Beijing Chaoyang Qu
Guangcai Guoji Gongyu Gongti Xilu, 18
6532 2627

Cineclub Beijing

Beijing 100088 Hai Dian Qu
Xiao Xi Tian Wen Today Yuan, 3
6226 6622



La Zone, Georges Lacombe

BEIJING TODAY

Editors: Yu Shanshan Dong Nan Designer: Zhao Yan

David Beckham: My Son

By Ted Beckham

Key themes:

Football, David Beckham, Being a dad.

David Beckham: My Son will delight fans, giving a fascinating insight into the early life of David, his ambition and determination to succeed, as well as his father's pride and joy as he watched him grow into a great footballer.

So the World Cup is on, and it's father's day. Any especially appropriate stories?

"David Beckham is both a brilliant footballer and a global icon. The slightest story about his life generates huge media coverage, but those truly close to him have never given their side of his incredible journey – until now. Ted Beckham's story is the ultimate dream of every father who has kicked a football with his son. A lifelong Manchester United supporter, Ted has seen his son David captain both his beloved Reds and England, as well as becoming an inspiration for a generation along the way. Even David Beckham was once an ordinary kid dreaming of making a living out of football, and in this celebratory book Ted Beckham lovingly charts what happened from David's birth to his move to Real Madrid."

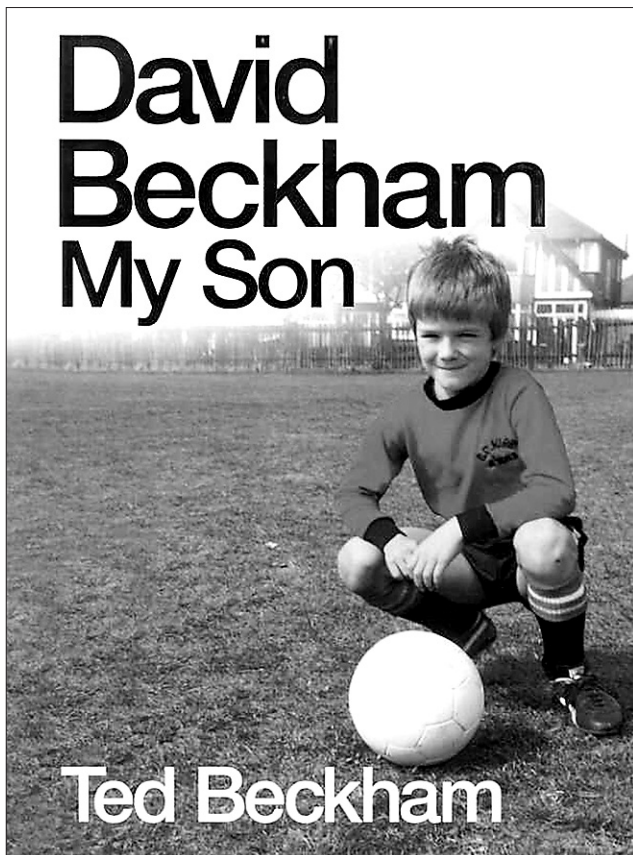
– Amazon

Bless. So is this doubtlessly unbiased account of the tribulations of England's captain any good?

"This book is special not only because of Ted's role as the father of a hero, but because Ted has given exclusive access to all the family photo albums and the unparalleled and extraordinary collection of memorabilia he has amassed during David's career. The book features 300 exclusive images to complement the 50,000 words of text. These images give us a side to the David Beckham story that has never been seen before. They include a stunning array of fascinating photographs that will delight and amaze everyone who thinks they know David Beckham."

– SoccerNet

OK, OK...so do we get all the behind the scenes dirt on the Beckhams' celebrity lifestyle?



lebrity lifestyle?

MOST dads would be over the moon if their son announced they were dating a famous and beautiful pop star.

But when Ted Beckham found out his boy David had fallen for Posh Spice, he feared the worst for the youngster's blooming career.

Becks had just broken into the glittering Manchester United side that was taking the Premiership by storm. He was a model professional who went to bed early and hardly ever touched booze.

Ted said: "You're very wary of anyone getting together... the pop star world. We were worried. I liked David going to bed at 10pm. Purely because he's a disciplined professional football player."

"David's not a drinker, he's

never been a drinker. The pop world...you don't know what time they're out until. That was our worry."

– Stephen Moyes & Fiona Cummins, *Daily Mirror*

Bloody hell! What are you, his dad?

[Yes he is. - Ed.]

Right you are. Any revelations that my own father wouldn't be nodding his head at?

"Although he has reservations about pop stars, Ted has got plenty of time for Sir Elton John."

He said: "I love Elton John. I liked him years ago. He's a brilliant guy and his partner David is superb. Smashing."

"As for Tom Cruise, I can't believe they're friendly with

one of the biggest stars in the world."

– *Daily Mirror*

That doesn't sound very macho. I thought football books were all...macho.

"We are all extremely excited to be publishing such a unique celebration of one of the true sporting giants. Ted Beckham has produced a moving and affectionate tribute to his son which adds the missing dimension to one of England's few global superstars."

– Richard Milner, Non-fiction Publisher at Pan Macmillan

Moving? Affectionate?? Where's the 'getting stuck in with the lads'?

"Becks helped me realize I am gay", said 25-year-old Colin from north London, one of 'hundreds of tearful fans' who rang *The Sun's* 'grief helpline'. 'I think I will have problems with my partner now', said Colin, 'as we both liked him'. According to 21-year-old student Rob: 'He was a gay icon. I feel abandoned now he has gone. I thought he would always be there.'

– Spiked .com

Veering back to the main subject matter: are David and his old man as close as the book would have us believe?

"[Ted] admitted with his son living in Spain he's no longer the first one David calls in a crisis."

Ted said: "It's sad things change. Yes, I miss him. As a dad, I miss that closeness. I'd love to go to Madrid, training every day with him."

– *Daily Mirror*

Brings a tear to the eye, don't it?

(By Gareth George)

Local shelf

My Ghost

By Adam Fuss & Jerry Kelly
Twin Palms, 50 pages, 765 yuan

Fuss gives the essential wonder of photography – its capacity for both literal translation and total transformation. He made pictures by simply putting things on top of photosensitive paper and exposing the arrangement to light. Water, babies, and water and babies, dead rabbits, eggs, flowers and chunks of cow's liver are all his subjects.

Available: Timezone 8 Art books, Jia 24-2 Meishuguan Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

Contact: 6400 4427



March: A Love Story in a Time of War

By Geraldine Brooks
Harper Perennial, 280 pages, 120 yuan

The winner of the 2006 Pulitzer for fiction, *March* tells the story of John March, known to us as the father away from his family in the classic American novel *Little Women* (by Louisa May Alcott). Still this book can be taken as a historical novel depicting catastrophe on the front lines of the American Civil War and the tragedy caused by barbarism and racism.



Saving Francesca

By Melina Marchetta
Alfred A Knopf, 247 pages, 75 yuan

Sixteen-year-old Francesca's compelling voice will carry readers along during a transitional year in her family and school life. The narrator's vivacious mother falls into a deep depression soon after the teen narrator starts 'Year Eleven' at St. Sebastian's, a Sydney boys' school now accepting – but not particularly accommodating to – girls (a teacher refers to the class as "gentlemen").

Available: Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road.

(By Wang Xiaoyuan)



Osso buco in Annie's Cafe
Photo provided by Annie's Cafe

Annie's all over town

By Chu Meng

This unpretentious, affordable Italian food was voted "Best Italian" and "Outstanding Pizza" in *Beijing Travel Guide 2006* Reader's Restaurant Awards.

A casual, cozy, and tremendously welcoming Italian bistro tucked among the nightspots at the SOHO New Town, Annie's is the hands-down favorite for affordable Italian fare in Beijing. Wood-fired pizzas are the most popular item, but try the baked *gnocchi gratinate* with tomato and broccoli, or chicken ravioli served with spinach and a fine tomato cream sauce.

Appetizers and desserts are just average, the notable exception being the cannoli, a sinful blend of cottage cheese and dried fruit with a touch of brandy in a fresh shell of fried dough. Annie's staff are friendly, and happy to bring as many baskets of free bread (served with small jars of pesto) as you want.

Annie's has been striving to give families more than just an enjoyable place to wine, dine and relax. Realizing that going out for dinner can be hard on the children – having to sit still for an hour or two can be a strain on even the nicest kid on the block – Annie's introduced a new concept into Beijing restaurant culture: a quiet corner where the kids can play in a happy and safe environment.

Annie's Cafe

Where: SOHO Branch: west gate of SOHO new town, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang (8589 8366)

Chaoyang Park Branch: west gate of Chaoyang Park (6591 1931)

Open: Daily 11:30am-11pm

Cost: main courses 40-80 yuan

Other restaurants

Adria Ristorante Pizzeria

Where: Opposite Kempinski Hotel 6460 0896.
No.14, Dongdaqiao Road 6500 6186

Open: 11am-2:30pm, 5pm-late evening.

Cost: 100-200 yuan.

Gisa Restaurant

Where: North of Chaoyang Park West Gate

Open: 11am-2:30pm, 6pm-11pm

Cost: 100-200 yuan

Tel: 6594 0938

La Dolce Vita

Where: 8 Bei Xindong Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 10:30am-11pm

Tel: 6468 2894

Cost: 100-200 yuan

Introduction to Italian Food

by Chu Meng

Italy is one of the teams in the World Cup, and Italian delicacies are also competitive among world cuisine. To understand something about Italian cooking you must first understand that Italy is a very young country, just over a hundred years old. Before that, Italy was divided into kingdoms, dukedoms, republics, principedoms, and the area controlled by the Catholic Church.

They didn't have much contact with each other, except for fighting in wars, and they certainly didn't go and see what their neighbors were eating. That's why you have distinct types of cooking in each region.

Another reason is the climate. If you go to the north and you're next to Austria, and if you go down the 'boot' to Sicily you're very close to Africa. So people cook with what they have on hand, with what

grows in their area. That's the way it was years ago, and that's the way it still is today.

I think the success of Italian food is that it's the food that is easiest to live with. Also, in a restaurant, nothing is cooked until you order it. Italians don't serve butter on the table with the bread, instead they serve olive oil. Now, in fashionable China, people love to have a little dish of olive oil to dip their bread.

Trattoria La Gondola: Go on, spoil yourself

By Gareth George

Give your *Ayi* a raise. Don't kick the dog. Do a little volunteer work. If you've managed to keep your temper in check now the heat is back, you deserve a little treat. Like a lunch date at La Gondola. Summer dining requires a lighter touch, and La Gondola, at the Kempinski, is an Italian oasis. The place settings are pure white, and lend the feel of an idealized farm kitchen. The floor tiles are checked and the kitchen open plan. You can watch top chef Francesco Aliberti and his assistants as they dice and flambe.

The place sucks up light, and La Gondola at lunchtime or even early evening has a fresh feel that draws the eye to Francesco's famous fish dishes. Of course, the menu is weighty – with all the usual cuts from the grill, pizzas and pastas – but the range of fresh ingredients makes the lighter dishes more appealing. *The Insalata Caprese* (65 yuan), with fat plum tomatoes damped in fresh oil and basil, and fluffy clouds of Bocconcini cheese are as much a feeling as a course. No other dish expresses rustic simplicity like the Caprese, and Francesco serves it without

over-complication.

Although La Gondola has a reputation for being pricey, the portions are hospitably generous. The *Straccetti alla Romana*, thickly sliced beef with Parmesan, is juicy and satisfying with a tasty hint of blood. *The Risotto Asparagus e Gamberi* (105 yuan) is a delight – a creamy virgin bed of rice stained with ripe pink prawns. To finish, try the *Tiramisu La Gondola* (55 yuan), a thick brick of a dessert, with apostrophes of creme anglais daubed around the sides.

Francesco Aliberti

Francesco has been a chef for 22 years and has been based in Beijing for the last five. His Seafood Risotto with finely diced vegetables, courgettes and potatoes is listed in the *Guida Gallo* as one of the 100 best Risotti in the world.

Hailing from Salerno, for him happiness is food created with a light touch. "I'm from the Mediterranean, and I like classic, fresh dishes, not fusion," he says, "I work with the freshest ingredients and I grew up with seafood, so I consider fish to be my specialty." If he could cook himself one meal before he departed for the great kitchen in the sky? "*Spaghetti alle Olio* – the classic – with maybe a little chilli."



Photos provided by La Gondola

Barley Risotto with wild mushrooms, roast tenderloin of beef and red wine reduction

By Chu Meng

If you are a fan of mushrooms like me, use fresh seasonal wild mushrooms when available. They elevate the flavor of the barley to incredibly delicious heights. The name risotto refers to the method of cooking, which is a slow process of adding broth a little at a time and stirring constantly. Pairing these hearty flavors with ultra lean proteins such as beef tenderloin and fresh asparagus makes for a feast for the eyes as well as the soul.

Barley Risotto with Wild Mushrooms

Makes 4 servings

1/2 teaspoon of extra virgin olive oil
4-4 ounces filet mignon (beef tenderloin)
1/2 teaspoon of sea salt
1/2 teaspoon of freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon of fresh mixed herbs
2 cups of steamed fresh vegetables, such as asparagus
4 tablespoons Red Wine Reduction
Preheat the oven to 400F (205C).

Heat an ovenproof medium pan over medium high heat. Add the olive oil to lightly coat the bottom of the pan. Season each filet mignon with the salt, pepper and mixed herbs. Add the wine, then the filets to the pan and sear on one side for two minutes. Place the pan in a hot oven to complete the cooking, for about eight minutes for medium-rare.



Giorgios salad
Photo provided by Peter Pan

Peter Pan: Pioneers power on

By Chu Meng

In the mood for carbo-loading? This new branch of the Peter Pan chain will start you out with complimentary bread and then offer countless pasta, pizza and risotto options. The restaurant makes a mean pepperoni pizza and a tasty tiramisu. Prices are moderate, ranging from 65 yuan for small pizzas and pastas to 120 yuan for beef and veal dishes. Delivery available.

Peter Pan was opened by Mr and Mrs Bonfatti, the owners of Beijing's famous Agrilandia Italian Farm. To Claudio and his Chinese wife, Lu Hongwei, China is a place to realize dreams.

"China is in a beautiful period for development. As long as you believe in dreams, you always have opportunities to make them come true here," say the owners of the Italian restaurants.

Agrilandia Italian Farm, which used to be the Bonfatti family's weekend retreat, has become a popular vacation site for Beijingers and foreigners. And the Bonfatti's are ready to make the idea of 'Italian agri-tourism' take root in Beijing.

After this first success the couple, in 1998, opened their first Peter Pan restaurant near the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel. Peter Pan is the capital's second Italian restaurant independent from hotels. Bonfatti's small restaurant was a hit and started to make a profit in less than one year. The new branch was opened last March.

Peter Pan

Where: new open: 3 Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang (8599 9051)

Old restaurant: San Li Tun Xing Fu San Cun South Street, Chaoyang District (6465 1661)

Open: Daily 11am-11pm.

Special drinks

Bar Blu (Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang) will be televising every one of the World Cup 2006 games, including reruns, on a huge outdoor screen on the roof terrace, (area 120 square meters). Hoegaarden draught costs 15 yuan from 30 minutes before kick off until either the first goal is scored or the full time whistle is blown. Pitchers of Carlsberg cost 28 yuan and cans of Boddingtons cost 45 yuan. For details, call 6417 4124.



Lottery and drinks

Enjoy the football and win an LCD screen and DVD player at Red Club (4 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Chaoyang). Drink discounts are up to 80 percent off, like eight yuan per glass of beer and 68 yuan per bottle of wine. For details, call 6417 7786.



Win a free trip

Guess the final scores to get free beer at Nashville (29 Zaoyinglu, Maizidian, Chaoyang), and drink Hoegaarden or Boddingtons to win a trip to Yunnan for two people. Also World Cup special offer after midnight: a burger, sandwich or spaghetti plus a coke or a beer is only 28 yuan. For details, call 5867 0298.



Free beer

Watch the World Cup on a 4m x 4m screen and drink free beer at Le Quai Restaurant and Lounge (East gate of Workers' stadium, Chaoyang). Also offers roasted wurst and special salads from 9 pm - 2 am. For details, call 6551 1636.



70 percent off

World brands like edc by Esprit are on sale at Grand Pacific Shopping mall (Juntai, 133 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng). These brands have discounts ranging from 30 to 70 percent from June 22 - July 5. For details, call 6612 3018.



Free dish

Dine at Ganlu Restaurant (South of Yongdinglu, Haidian) now and get a free dish called long life fish. The restaurant offers hot and spicy dishes, especially Xichuan flavor dishes. For details, call 6670 3797.



20 yuan voucher

Spend 120 yuan at Yuanlv Sushi Restaurant (1 Pufanglu Fangzhuang, Fengtai) and get a 20-yuan voucher. The restaurant offers quick sushi and Japanese noodles. For details, call 6762 8832.



9 big screens
inside and outside

All games shown live
English broadcast

Replays at 5pm next day

Garden
open
now

Pavilion

bar & restaurant
www.pavillionbeijing.com



Gongtixi Lu Beijing, PRC
(opposite of west gate worker stadium)

Opening times 10am-Late

Bioscor International

15% OFF

Any skin treatment

June 9-July 9

任何皮肤项目疗程

6月9日-7月9日

Voucher

40 percent off

Purchase famous accessories brand She's at Carrefour Supermarket (Shuangjing, Chaoyang), and get discounts of up to 40 percent on headwear, rings, necklaces and brooches. For details, call 5190 9508.



(By Terence Lu)

Send us you
discounts & offers.
Email us:
bjtoday@ynet.com
or call: 6590 2626

ADVERTISE IN
BEIJING TODAY
PLACE YOUR ADVERT NOW
AND GET INSTANT RESULTS!

Call: Gerjo Hoffman 137 1887 8015 (English)
Jian Zhong 139 0135 4788 (Chinese)

In an era where people are obsessed with the fast-food lifestyle of instant gratification, Spanish clothes store Zara is considered to be at the forefront of 'fast fashion'. Every season, the fashion giant stocks up on the latest styles just days after the world's top fashion shows come to a close and puts them on sale at an affordable price. No wonder the *Guardian* calls the Zara phenomenon 'McFashion'.

From Europe to Asia, Zara has developed from women's wear to men's and children's and now to Zara Home. Its first flagship store in China opened in Shanghai in February this year.

Zara feeds you McFashion



Zara home



Zara Trafaluc

Affordable exclusivity

On the first day the Shanghai store opened, long queues formed in front of the dressing rooms. Zheng Zheng, a 27-year-old customer, described the shopping experience on her weblog: "The first day, the crowds made me dizzy. One week later, the situation seems a little bit better in the shop, but there are no sizes that fit me."

In the 650 Zara stores dotted across 50 countries, customers can always find new products but the supply is limited. There is a sense of tantalizing exclusivity, as only a few items are on display even though the stores are spacious – the average size is around 1,000 square meters (2,000 square meters in Shanghai).

This high street brand makes limited editions work, with hundreds of new designs a year and rapid replenishment of small batches of new goods. New collections will be on the rack for no more than three weeks at low prices. For example, a pair of shoes will set you back between 500 to 800 yuan, handbags cost

around 500 yuan, shirts and tops 300 yuan and suits 700 yuan.

Well-tailored items are usually snapped up by everyone from middle income shoppers to the rich and famous. The only difference between Zara and its high end neighbors like Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Christine Dior, Prada and Amarni, is that Zara does not have stores on New York's Fifth Avenue, on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, the Corso Vittorio Emanuele in Milan or West of Nanjing Road in Shanghai.

Related readings:

Zara's Secret for Fast Fashion in Harvard Business School Working Knowledge

By Kasra Ferdows, Michael A. Lewis and Jose A.D. Machuca (2005)

Fast copycat

Amancio Ortega Gaona opened Zara in 1975. But it was not until the early 1990s, when the concept of fashion to fulfill customers' desire of catching the trends that the shop really took off. "Zara is a headache for designers of top brands, but a blessing for young customers who want to dress in the latest designs," said Luo Zhi, a Chinese fashion designer.

The Zara design team is made up of more than 200 designers. Their job is to visit the fashion shows in Paris, Milan and London to get inspiration from top designers and to create 40,000 items of clothing, from which around 10,000 are selected for production every season.

This summer Zara designers are banking on beach and sea inspired designs becoming the major trend. Their summer line includes sailor trousers and jackets with gold buttons. For the office lady, Zara says that the Hispanic and Latin look will be in this season, with tailored waistlines and wide belts, tube skirts with high waists and detailed waistbands.

So while luxury brands flog fashion at extortionate prices to the minted minority, Zara gives the masses cutting edge fashion at affordable prices.

Related readings:

One size fits all in McFashion in The Observer

By Michelle Lee (2003)

Zara Home

At Zara Home there are clothes for men and children as well as women. The new-style store also sells household items as fashionable and cheap as their fashion lines. From printed bed linen to soft furnishings, ceramics and glass, it's become an extremely popular and convenient chain store for women who love to decorate themselves and the house.

The newly launched line of Zara opened its first dedicated

home furnishings store in Regent Street, London in 2003. "It has become the number one shopping spot for mothers and daughters, men and boys, and children love the label. The appeal of this big Spanish fashion chain is unisex and universal," said Barbara Chandler in the *Evening Standard*.

Related readings:

Zara: www.zara.com

Zara Home:

www.zarahome.com

Indetex: www.indetex.com



Zara kids



Zara home

Store information:

Zara Shanghai:

Add: 1193 Nanjing West Road, Shanghai

Tel: 021-6279 3282

Sections: women/men/kid

Zara Hong Kong:

Add: Harbor City

Tel: +852-2629 1858

Add: Int'l Finance Center U 1065

Tel: +852-2234 7305

Sections: women/men/kids

(By Shelley Xie)



Zara home

Getting Father's Day all figured out



Stripe shirt

The only man you can trust throughout your life is your father. Not every father in China is aware of Father's Day this Sunday, so you have a very good chance of getting him a surprise.



Hush Puppies 6684M watch

Something to make him look younger

Add a small change to his usual outfit. Choose a light-colored shirt, or try some stripes and prints, that will give your father a fresher look. Dressing younger will make him feel younger. Material is very important so choose cotton or silk for those warm summer days.

Yeah-Cool Japanese Style Silk Shirt (Short sleeves)

Made of 100 percent silk in China. The design – red goldfish and a pattern of water and leaves – expresses good health and success. All the prints and embroidered. They are machine-made and machine washable.

Price: 238 yuan

Available: Nick Shop, www.taobao.com

Paul Smith, Rainbow Cotton Stripe Shirt (Long sleeves)

The Paul Smith classical, Rainbow selection. Chinese traditional twisted buttons on collars and sleeves add elegance to this hip-looking shirt. Roll up the sleeves and you will see a colorful design of stripes along the inside. The shirt can be worn with a casual coat or suit.

Price: 198 yuan

Available: Oriental Plaza, Dongcheng District, Beijing, Cola Wing, Yongchang Plaza, Yuyao Road, Shanghai; or Sudi Chunxiao, Chaoshou Road, Shanghai

Hush Puppies 6684M watch

Forget about those luxurious brands and give him a combination of fun and elegance. Hush Puppies 6684M are hand-made of Italian leather. The watch is designed as a beer tub, with a glass surface and background the color of champagne. The image of hush puppies is carved on the back of the watch.

Price: 1480 yuan

Available: Hush Puppies section in department stores: the Grand Pacific Plaza, Xidan Shopping Center



Japanese Style Silk Shirt



Amway men's skin care series

Something to make him healthier

We would not recommend cigarette lighters or pipes here, even if men favor them, as they are not that healthy. For daughters, it is the time to move your eye from boys to the man standing by your side; for sons, why not choose something for him and for you at the same time, as we say like father, like son? If you have not started to use men's care products, now you have the chance to try.

Amway Tolsome men's skin care series

Active carbon washing foam, refreshing lotion and SPF 15 cream. The washing foam can also be used for shaving. The skin of your father will be clean and refreshed.

Price: 550 yuan

Available: Amway store, west of Huawei Qiao, Chongwen, or visit www.amwaybeijing.com

Afarotiza foot care

Originally from Greece, Afarotiza's lemon grass essence and powder of sea salt removes old skin from the feet and improves circulation. Use it everyday and for a relieving foot refreshing experience.

Price: 80 yuan

Available: The first floor of Building D, Time International Plaza, Sanyuanqiao, Chaoyang



Afarotiza's Lemon salt foot wash



Carrousel photo hanger



DVD: My Father and I

A gift from the heart

It does not need to be expensive or unique to touch your father's heart. The best gift may cost you just one yuan but still be valuable to him. Some fathers prefer to come home and have a meal with his daughter or watch a football game with his son. Below we list some little tricky tools to add some fun to the day.

Carrousel photo hanger

Select pictures you two took together, from childhood to today and put them into this carrousel photo hanger.

Price: 218 yuan

Available: fourth floor, the southern section of New World Shopping Center

DVD: My Father and I; or Going to School with Father On My Back

Select a movie that you two and the family can sit down together and watch. The two above are just the latest movies directed by Chinese directors Xu Jinglei and Wang Xiaolie - there are still hundreds more to choose from.

Price: 12 - 15 yuan

Available: department stores and music and video shops

(By Wang Xiaoyuan)

How to make your breasts look bigger

Having a well-proportioned rack is almost every woman's dream. In a society like ours where having big breasts is adored and given such emphasis, it is not surprising that every flat-chested woman desires to be well-endowed. Various breast enhancement products have come to the forefront that promise to give fuller breasts.

Unfortunately, no pill can safely increase your breast size. While nothing short of surgery will make your boobs look like Pamela Anderson's, there are less invasive options that can make a difference. Here's the ultimate guide to beautiful breasts at any age.

Exercise

Exercise won't add inches to your breasts. Breasts are largely fatty tissue and there's no exercise to grow fat. But exercise can make your breasts sit higher because it builds up pectoral muscles directly below the breasts. Try to do the following exercise everyday:

a. Push-ups: Put your hands and knees on the floor with your back flat. Align your hands with your bust. Bend your arms and lower yourself until your chest almost touches the floor. Then push yourself back up to the starting position. Hold this pose for a few seconds and then bend your arms again bringing your torso down a few inches to the floor.

b. Modified Push-ups:

Instead of the hands and knees on the floor, the lower arms, the elbows and toes are placed against the floor. The torso is raised up but your lower arms and elbows and toes are kept on the floor.

c. Back extension: Back extensions strengthen your upper and lower back muscles, thus improving posture. After each set of push-ups, lie face-down on the floor, lift one arm and the opposing leg a few inches straight in the air simultaneously, and hold on for a count of ten. Do the move twice on each side.

d. Bench Press: This is the best exercise for shaping and firming your bust line. Lie flat on a bench, with one foot on each side of the bench touching the floor. Firmly press your head, shoulders, back and butt on the bench while sticking up your chest. Slowly push the dumbbells straight up. Fully extend your arms but don't lock your elbows when arms are fully extended. Pause slightly at the top of the movement then slowly lower the dumbbells back down to the starting position. Inhale and hold your breath as you lower the dumbbells. When they reach the chest, begin to move the weight upward again.

e. Breast Press: Using two three-to-five pound dumbbells, sit on the edge of a chair with your back straight, arms at your sides. Lean forward slightly at your hips, and bend your elbows to 90 degrees, keeping the palms

down. Raise your arms from the shoulders so your elbows reach shoulder level, your hands in front and to each side. Hold this position for a count of four, and then return to your start position.

The Perfect Boosting Bra

If your boobs look like a pair of unappetizing fried eggs on your rib cage or are noticeably lopsided, maybe the problem is your bra. You'll get the sexiest support if you look for the following features:

a. Supportive cups

If your breasts are saggy, they'll sit in the bottom of the sheer cup. Look for a bra with lined cups that are slightly firm to touch.

b. A firm, solid back

Flimsy cotton and lace may not be strong enough to pull your breasts up. A bra with a wide, tightly woven back will help hoist you up in front.

c. Underwire

Underwire bras give a good lift to your busts because they provide good support underneath. Just make sure the wire surrounds the breast tissue and is a perfect fit to your breasts otherwise it will be uncomfortable to wear them.

d. Padded bra

Padded bras don't just make your breasts appear bigger but they also provide added protection to your breasts from accidental nudges in crowded places.

(By Chu Meng)



Doctor's opinion

Dr Tony Prochazka:

There are many factors that influence growth of breasts. These include nutrition and genetics, both because of hormone stimulation.

Currently, the most popular methods for breast enlargement and shaping are pills, creams, padded bras, or surgical breast augmentation. However the first two are unproven to enlarge breasts. Results, if any, are a temporary. And they can turn out to be very dangerous for those who may be allergic to the herbal compounds found in these products. Padded bras do give the appearance of larger breasts, but only as long as they are worn.

There are surgical procedures available to increase or shaping the size of breasts. These are major operations. Results are immediate following surgery. You can choose how much you wish to enlarge your breasts. Results can be great. It depends on the technique of your surgeon and the amount of breast tissue you have to start with. In most cases, the more breast tissue the better the result.

Dr Tony Prochazka is a cosmetic surgeon from Bioscor International Clinic for Cosmetic Medicine who specializes in liposculpture and breast augmentation.

Bioscor International was established in Melbourne, Australia in 1992. In 14 years, it has expanded to 20 clinics across Asia Pacific, Europe and America. Bioscor HK clinic was established in 1993, then Shanghai clinic in 2003 and Beijing clinic in 2005. Western surgeons and the most advanced medications are continuously introduced. Highly capable English-speaking Chinese doctors and other professionals are at your service, and provide world-class care to the international community.

Bioscor Beijing

Tel: 6503 5707

Email:

beijing@bioscor.com.cn

(By Chu Meng)

Chest done right – for men who want to be sexier

By Ryan McLane

The chest is, to me anyway, the most masculine looking muscle on the body. It makes a man either look powerful, if he has a well-developed chest, or weak, if his chest is undeveloped. Most people really neglect to train their chest the way they should. The average Joe probably only does a few sets of bench presses, and that's all for his chest. Well, all that will change when I show you how to train your chest right.

I see men in the gym that are bench pressing 300-350 pounds, but they are overweight and they have boobs flapping all over the place. However a well-developed chest is one that stands out from your ribcage, and is noticeable and formed. It should also be very striated and ripped, because I don't think any bodybuilder wants to have a smooth chest.

How to get started

I'll start off by telling you the muscles that make up your chest. Pectoralis Major- this muscle starts in your clavicle and sternum,

and basically makes up your breast. Serratus Anterior- this is a thin muscle sheet between the ribs and the scapula.

If you want to have a wonderful chest, however, there are some things you should know. You won't get your chest working as well as it should if your back, particularly the Lats, isn't very well developed. I was stuck on my bench press forever. I couldn't get past my maximum. This was before I started bodybuilding. I heard that you couldn't get your chest going unless your Lats were developed, so I started working the Lats more. Since this was before I started bodybuilding, I never worked my back before. I started working my back a lot more, and my bench maximum shot up 45 pounds in two months.

Exercises for the chest

Bench Press: Bench press is a must, if not for chest development, then for people's respect for you. Lie down on a bench, put your hands a little farther apart than shoulder width, bring



the bar down to your chest, and press up. Do not bounce the bar on your chest. That is dangerous, and you aren't using your muscles as much to focus on a full range of motion. Bench presses can be done on an incline or decline bench, with either a barbell or two dumbbells. You can do chest presses on some machines, too.

Dips: these are done on two parallel bars (you in between the bars), while you lower and push yourself up using your arms. These work great for the lower chest area.

Dumbbell Flies: these are done holding two dumbbells over your chest with your palms facing each other. Keeping your arms bent, lower the weights on either side of you. Once you can't see your arms anymore, then it is time to bring them up. Do not lower them too far, because I have done that and it hurts if you pull the muscles. Badly!

Serratus: For the Serratus muscles, most of the chest exercises will hit them, but there are a lot of exercises that tend to isolate them. You can do pullovers with cables, or a barbell. Pullovers also hit the back muscles, too, which is good. Close grip chins also hit the Serratus, and there are Serratus crunches you can do.



Beijian Bridge

Photos by Zhou Xianjun

Sixi Sister Lounge Bridge

Sixi Sister Wind and Rain Bridges refers to two bridges in Sixi town: Xidong Bridge and Beijian Bridge.

Xidong Bridge has a 434-year history, and Beijian Bridge, located 500 meters away, has a history of 329 years. Because of the similar appearance of the two bridges they are known as the Sister Bridges.

Xidong Bridge contains 15 adjoining buildings, some of them raised at the center. Xidong Bridge, which contains a shrine and has several sacred halls and temples built nearby, is a sacred spot for locals.

Beijian Bridge is eye catching partly because of the two towering trees at each end of the bridge. There are also many stores at either end of the bridge. The red boards used on both sides of the bridge contrast with the surrounding greenery.

A 'Wind and Rain Bridge' cultural exhibition hall, established by a local teacher, is located at the end of Beijian Bridge and offers a comprehensive view of the history and culture of covered bridges.

Liuzhai Bridge

Liuzhai Bridge in Liuzhai Village, Sankui Town, contains 45 wooden pillars. The rooms on the bridge are all two-story pavilions. The bridge contains a shrine and memorial tablets to honor Liu ancestors.

There are only 22 of this kind of covered bridge in Taishun. Liuzhai Bridge was first built in 1465, during the Ming Dynasty, and originally was called Xiandong Rainbow Bridge. It has had three renovations, but the appearance has not changed. The bridges played an important transportation role before the establishment of modern road networks.

Santiao Bridge

Santiao Bridge is located across the stream at the boundary of Zhoul-ing and Yangxi Town, and was the first bridge built during the reigning years of Emperor Zhenguan in the Tang Dynasty. It was initially built with three rough pieces of wood and was called Santiao Bridge, which means three pieces of wood. In the reigning years of Emperor Daoguang in the Qing Dynasty, the bridge was reconstructed as a covered bridge, 32 meters long, four meters wide, with 11 adjoining rooms.

Characters are written in Chinese ink on the girders of the bridge, recording its history. However, due to the wind and rain, some of the ink-characters have become faded.

Ancient dwelling houses

Besides covered bridges, ancient dwelling houses are a must to see for visitors in Taishun County.

There are dozens of clusters of ancient dwelling houses in Taishun. The houses have a plain design. Different from the liberal architecture of the north and the graceful architecture of the south, the ancient dwelling houses in Taishun were constructed without fixed rules or styles, making the ancient dwelling houses in Taishun unique.

Hu's Yard in Xuexi town, Baifuyan Ancient Village Cluster in Yayang town, and Yuanzhou Ancient Village Cluster in Siqian town, are all famous locations for visitors who want to experience this unique ancient architecture.

(By Jackie Zhang)

The movie *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995) is famous for being a touching love story, but it also made covered bridges famous.

Covered bridges are stone or wooden bridges that often feature adjoining rooms. They are known as 'Wind and Rain' bridges in China. These bridges are especially popular in damp places around the world.

Rain is abundant in areas south of the Yangtze River in China. Covered bridges have another function: a meeting place for the elderly, who usually sit on the bridges, drinking tea, playing chess, and chatting.

Taishun County in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province with around 1,000 covered bridges, is known as 'the town with the most covered bridges in the world.' Almost all the local bridges contain shrines erected by local people to honor their ancestors.

The romance of covered bridges



Yongqing Bridge



Xuezhai Bridge



Xidong Bridge

What to eat

Pobing (wife cake): Pobing, containing fresh stuffing, is a popular Taishun snack that is also popular with visitors.

Preserved rabbit: Preserved rabbit is a traditional festival food. The rabbit is boiled before being baked with rice. The meat is also cut and boiled with vinegar and ginger, and the spicy, acidic taste goes well with wine.

Dried sword beans and dried cow beans: Dry sword beans are made of high-quality sword beans, also called kidney beans, planted in Taishun County. It is used medicinally to relieve waist and back aches. Dried cow beans are traditionally made at home and given to friends and relatives as gifts. It is an essential dish at local wedding banquets.

Bamboo shoots: Bamboo shoots are abundant in Taishun County. Lansuntan (mashed bamboo) is a famous Taishun dish. Every year when Qingming (pure brightness) is approaching, the climate is wet and rainy, local people pick bamboo shoots in the mountains. The husks of the bamboo shoots are removed and boiled for several days until they have a shiny appearance. It is then boiled in preserved mustard and spices for several more days.

How to get there

Go to the city of Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province and take a coach to Taishun.

The passenger transport center will help you get to Taishun.

Address: No. 52, Niushan North Road, Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province

Tel: 0577-1606605

Ticket: around 30 to 40 yuan

Transportation for your tour: Some local hostels provide car-hiring services for visitors. This may be expensive, but they will take you wherever you want.

Where to stay

Living conditions are good in hostels in Taishun, which are available in every town in the county. While the hostels in Luoyang town have comprehensive facilities, there are limited places of interest to the tourist here. The towns of Sankui or Sixi are recommended tourist destinations.

Tips

The famous hot springs, called Chengtian Niton Springs, in southern Zhejiang Province are located in Yayang, Taishun. There are two holiday villages offering different prices. The expenses may be higher than living in private hostels, but the facilities and services are worth it.

You should use Sankui as your base because transportation from Sankui to other tourist locations is convenient.

By Chris O'Brien

Becoming part of President Bush's axis of evil is hardly going to attract busloads of tourists. Neither is sharing a border with Iraq. But Syria possesses plenty of attractions to counter balance this dodgy exterior. Damascus is one of the oldest inhabited capital cities in the world, its archaeological sites hark back to Roman times, and the people are open and welcoming. Backpacking has become more popular and the country's main sites are so well connected that they can be seen in just over a week.



Roman ruins of Palmyra

Photo by Chris O'Brien

The pirouetting radars and dust-stained tanks shrink in the rear window until the bus reaches a fork in the desert road. Right to Baghdad, left to Palmyra.

We sulk for a moment when our vehicle shuns the intriguing 70-kilometer stretch to the Iraqi border in favour of a stranded oasis, torched by the Romans in the third century and three hours east of the majority of Syria's 17 million people.

As with most of this country, plagued by an 'axis of evil' tag that frustrates and amuses its population, the dangers of travel here lie only in road signs, a lack of cash-points and the ubiquitous Marlboro emblazoned straw hats.

Syria is refreshingly stubborn. Many towns remain staunch resisters of Coca-Cola and their people laugh off any polite attempts to decline their kindness.

So too is their refusal to remove any of the abundant statues or pictures of their former President Hafez Al-Assad, who ruled between 1970 and 2000. They still watch over the people as carefully as China's Chairman Mao's.

Syria

Ignore the bad press



Iranian Shiite tourists take a tour inside the 8th century Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria.

Hama

We enter the country from the north of Lebanon and arrive in one of the most Burka-clad towns in Syria. Hama was the scene of a massacre in 1982 of around 40,000 civilians who were deemed to be a threat to the government of President al-Assad. A third of the town was destroyed by shelling. Now, it is dominated by the agonising groans of its norias – giant wooden water wheels on the Orontes River which feed the surrounding fields. But it is the most peaceful of Syria's main towns.

It is also the most conservative. Curious female eyes peep out from black burkas and when three pairs of them help two foreigners of marriageable age with directions, a nearby shopkeeper is quick to usher them away and flash us a friendly warning smile.

Later on, after we accepted a street invitation to knock back cranberry juice on a rooftop in the suburbs, accountancy student Mustafa explained: "The only way to meet girls is to go to the marketplace, slip them your phone number and then talk on the phone for a few months. I've never dared."

The town has no particular tourist sites, which is why, female dress code aside, it is so revealing. In the market square, an audience of housewives is captivated by a purple van, a mobile advert for Persil that dishes out free samples.

The other social arena is the park on top of the hill overlooking the green lights of the town's minarets at night.

An elderly group of men interrupt their debates and invite us for a dusk picnic of sickly sweet tea and pistachio nuts. Unfazed by our blank looks that meet Arabic, they laugh about Tony Blair and ask us how much we earn.

The town is a good base for visiting the pristine crusader castle, Krak Des Chevaliers, about 80km back towards the Lebanese border. TE Lawrence was emphatic in his observation. "The most wholly admirable castle in the world."

Credit to the Crusader Knights – they didn't just kick back and enjoy the view of the conquered valleys but built a fortress whose white cylindrical towers hardly sport a blemish from 850 years of attacks by the elements.

The sunlight changes patterns on the arched colonnades but much of the living quarters and stables remain in darkness. If only the sweating ice cream seller would branch out into plastic swords. He would make a killing in satisfying tourists' desire to creep around the gloomy cellars impersonating Richard the Lionheart.



Iraqi women tourists take a lunch break in the old town in Damascus, Syria.

Aleppo

A luxury two and a half hour and US\$3 bus ride north, lie the bustling medieval souqs of Syria's second city Aleppo – a warren of stone-vaulted shopping arcades, pierced by tubes of light where the thirteenth century stone has fractured.

Forget the crowded stalls of Damascus, this is the place to haggle, especially if your travelling partner's name is Alistair. His preference for the shortened Ali draws disbelief, doubt then veneration from the traders and the price becomes academic. When you wander back into the pupil-shrinking sunlight, the high walls of the twelfth century citadel, raised on an earth platform, make for an uplifting reference point.

In the Christian Quarter, the noise dissipates and the serene stone-flagged streets remind us we can relax on a holiday in Syria. A few arched town-houses have been converted into restaurants and bars and we drink beer served furtively in a 'Friends' coffee mug because of a Muslim holy day.



Aleppo citadel

Photos by CFP

Damascus

The main highway takes us south towards Damascus, past pockets of plastic piping shelters muddled together by Palestinian refugees, and a family insists we accompany them to the Christian town of Maalula, 50 kilometers short of the capital.

Only 15,000 people still speak Aramaic, said to be the language of Christ, and over half of them live here, in the houses painted in Mary's light blue, which balance on the crags.

At the foot of the town, we are greeted by a square minaret of a mosque, which exists for ten percent of the town's dwellers. At the top of the hill lies the Mar Sarkis church, built in the fourth century on the site of a pagan temple.

The only entrance is through a hole in a stonewall equal in height to those wooden markers at theme parks used to warn off small children. The limbo manoeuvre is worth doing when you consider the chapel inside is one of the only places you will hear the Lord's Prayer spoken in Jesus' tongue.

We rejoin our journey to the capital and find that the highlight of one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world is Damascus' Umayyad Mosque, which dates back to AD705.

Inside, any hushed reverence is absent – people either sit and chatter or lie fast asleep. The latter activity is interrupted by the caretaker, who patrols the vast prayer hall with a wooden broom handle, which he uses to jolt dozing limbs.

The marble floor of the central courtyard, surrounded by facades adorned with golden mosaics, is a meeting point of the Arab nations. Within minutes of resting our bare feet on the cool tiles, we receive an invite to northern Iraq from a couple and their young daughter who have travelled from Kurdistan on holiday.

We have difficulty in declining the offer but our excuses are valid – tourist visas for Iraq are elusive and we want to head into the desert to see the mainly Roman ruins of Palmyra.

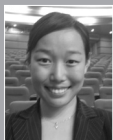
The lines of columns leading to the Temple Of Bel are impressive.

How to get there

You can fly into the capital Damascus or if you have time to visit Lebanon first, it is easy to cross the border in the north of Lebanon and stop at the Syrian transport hub of Homs. From here, you can travel by bus north to Aleppo, east to Palmyra or south to Damascus in a few hours. Bus fares are very cheap – about US\$1 per hour.

Buying Things

Bargain hard, especially in the souqs of Aleppo. Shisha pipes, with decorated glass bases, will cost around US\$10, depending on your negotiation skills. Cheap food is in abundance – falafel and chicken kebabs are on every corner.



By Han Manman



The curtain finally closed on *The Super Intern* competition this week. The final competition was made up of four parts: 1. Self-introduction 2. Role-play: each group was given a name of a famous movie and was told to act any part of it. 3. Case Study 4. Recommend two candidates as your ideal partners and present the reasons for your choice.

After two grueling hours, four winners were selected from the remaining 10 candidates (divided into Team A and Team B). They won an internship at either GE or China Netcom.

Below, one of the winners and two of the candidates who failed to make the grade, talk about the closing stages of the competition and what they learned from it.

Xu Yi, executive director of New House International Education Consulting Company, and Guo Zhen, from a well-known Fortune 500 company, tell us how they picked the winner over the others.

Winners and losers



Xu Yi's tips for a successful AC screening

I don't have much to say about why the winners are good. Rather, I would like to focus on what the others did not do well.

To succeed in an AC screening, there are several rules to follow.

1. Pay attention to etiquette.

The tests go beyond the answers to the questions per se. In other words, through the entire process, the judges (HR people) are measuring the candidates. To a large extent, the process is equally important as the final answer, if not even more so.

Many people focus only on getting the answers right without paying attention to etiquette. For example, in the introduction part of the questions, some candidates were whispering while others were making presentations. Nothing could have been more annoying than this. It was very obnoxious to anyone watching the contest.

2. Build up empathy.

There is a famous 'airport questions' analogy. Assuming that you are stuck at the airport for six hours, do you want this person to be next to you? Do you feel comfortable sitting next to him/her? Could you work with them for 10 hours a day?

Making the interviewer or judge like you is the key to success. At the end of the day, it is teamwork that will make the difference. So a good judge will look at whether you fit into the team and the energy you can bring to the team. That is why empathy is important.

3. Understand the questions.

Getting the result wrong could be fatal to a team and especially to the leader. Often candidates get the answers wrong not because the questions are too hard for them, but because they do not fully understand the questions.

For example, in our contest, Team A confused evaluating several options with acting as the individuals related in the options

4. Be a leader and a team member.

College graduates are looking for entry-level positions. It is no use to the companies they apply to if all they can do is lead. Of course, leadership qualities are vitally important. But if you cannot work equally well as a team member, you will not be selected.

The last thing a company needs is yet another 'boss'.



Yang Shanshan: A first year postgraduate who majored in simultaneous interpretation from Nankai University

I felt very lucky to get to the final round of the HIAL Super-intern Competition. Before going to the final, I told myself that what was important was not whether I won or not, but what I could learn from the experience. Compared to my Assessment Center (AC) round, where I was just a member of the group, the final round gave me opportunity to take on the role of group leader, where I was able to show my leadership skills. I was also happy with my presentation in the case studies and movie show.

I performed well because I have a taken part in many speaking contests over the past three years. I kept good eye contact, my body language was good and I had a confident smile. One of my biggest mistakes was forgetting my partner's name. When the judge told me that I went out of the competition because of a name, I was so disappointed that I even wanted to argue with the Mr Xu and say is a name really that important? But I reined in my anger and patiently listened to Mr Xu's comment. He

reminded me that I am very disorganized. I usually lose my keys, my books and forget where I left my bike. I am good at mastering the whole but not good at dealing with details. Mr Xu taught me good lesson: details determine success. I am glad he pointed that out in the mock interview so that in the future I won't make the same mistakes. I really enjoyed the competition and I hope that my failure will motivate me to improve myself so that I can succeed when it comes to the real thing.



Yuan Jian: a third year college student who majored in software studies from Nankai University

All the candidates were very able. I won the competition because I was in form. Lots of people ask me how to write a résumé that will make them stand out from the crowd. But when I was a freshman, my older schoolmates taught me how to write a decent résumé. I make the most of every chance to improve myself. I have taken part in lots of activities to build on my skills, including an initiative competition using a Microsoft engineering program. I led a team in a science and technology competition in Tianjin city and we won first prize. I was rewarded with a international computer scholarship. That experience has helped me to improve my communication and problem solving skills as well as adding career experience to my résumé. Secondly, the interviewer examined a wide range of topics including strategic thinking, management skills and marketing. We can't know everything well but we can learn something from each area and add that to our skills. I have been doing this for the past three years at university. I viewed this competition as a process of learning and just behaved the way I would always behave.

Comments from the Judge:

Yuan Jian is a steady and genuine person. His innocent face makes you feel that he is reliable and even if he makes a mistake, you want to give him another chance. He has a good attitude. What impressed us most was his role-play. His team was asked to act out the English play *Romeo and Juliet*. When we asked him to play Romeo he did not hesitate and lay, outstretched on the ground. That proved to us that he was a good team player. His self-introduction about the work he has done and his experience, also impressed us.



Comments from the Judge:

Wan Ming is very talented. She has a good command of oral English. Her reaction, image and style are good but she did not perform well in the interview. She was well prepared for the interview but she was not able to provide enough analysis to satisfy the interviewer. She is active but a little over active, which made people feel she was a little unnatural and was overdoing it. For such a formal interview, she should have acted with more maturity. We would say that nine out of 10 people don't act like she did. But she quickly got involved in the role-play, which is actually a very important element of the selection process. People who quickly become part of a team and readily throw themselves into role-play are usually the kind of

people who would work well in a team.

We have two suggestions for Wan Ming, first she needs to do more preparation before interviews, she needs to act more maturely and get the interviewer to focus on her skills. Second, she needs to be herself.

Comments from the Judge:

Yang Shanshan's spoken English and pronunciation is really good. In Fortune 500 companies, a good command of English is a strong advantage. However, she lacked basic knowledge, especially commercial knowledge, and this made her look unprofessional. She made two fatal mistakes. She always wanted to explain things when people asked her a question or questioned her. She should not have done that. The more you explain the more you demonstrate. People will think you cannot accept that you have weaknesses. She also forgot her teammate's name. She claimed that she couldn't remember his name because it was hard to remember. What she said gave us the impression that she didn't care about her partners or paying attention to detail. It is important to remember that details can decide your fortune. Your employer has to decide whether or not to take you on in an interview where details are crucial.

Photos by Han Manman

► Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

My Roommates in College

By Fu Xinchun

I spent my most beautiful and most ignorant time in college. There was a small room where ten girls lived of tender years. On the first day, we met each other in the Room 204, No. 2 Dormitory Building; the ten girls had been arranged from the oldest to the youngest.

The oldest was a tall, cool and beautiful girl. She had her own ideas and didn't like to go with the flow. I prefer to consider such an opinionated girl as a standard girl from Northeastern China.

The second oldest girl had big eyes and loves English, and she asked me to recite English words all at once under the street lamps every day. I once had such a strong enthusiasm for English also.

The third oldest girl was another beautiful girl in our room. She liked to read several novels about love affairs. I still remember that the actress, who experiences a hard time to struggle for love, was her favorite. Reading these novels, as well as eating flowerseeds, was her favorite way to spend the weekend.

I usually shared the same ideas with the fourth oldest girl, and even sometimes we knew what the other would say before the opposite talked. We were both sentimental girls, and we looked forward to sudden and romantic love. Once I helped her to attract a boy's

attention, however, the boy always kept as a common friend with us, but we don't know where he is now. She nearly believed that he was her Mr. Right at that time!

The fifth girl and the seventh girls went in for seeing films. They always talked about their beloved films stars. The fifth girl's bed was next to mine. She



Fu Xinchun is a student at Beijing University of Technology

always told me about films or TV plays in her own words after ten o'clock, when the light went off. She enjoyed telling a story and I enjoyed listening to a story.

The sixth girl experienced the most changes during the four years. She went from a common, timid girl to a beautiful and brave girl. Before graduation, we chose her as the person who had 'the fulfilling college life' among us. Once she didn't pass the exam, yet got good scores in some subjects, ever skipped classes, once took part in students' union, once she had a love affair with a boy on the Internet, and she was pursued by a boy, also went after a boy and became his girlfriend. Unfortunately, they said 'Goody-bye' after graduation.

The eighth girl was a skinny and humorous girl. We practiced ice skating, went shopping and attended all kinds of lectures together. We always laughed out loud and cried without scruple together. The memories from those days are colorful and full of nostalgia for me.

The ninth girl had a pair of smiling eyes. The most impressive things in my mind about her were that many boys had gone after her, but she is still alone.

I was number ten. When I'm alone, I'd like to sit beside the window and look far away to search for the days in my deep memory.

Photo provided by Fu Xinchun

John Gordon's reply

Dear Fu Xinchun,

Thanks so much for sending us your essay. We enjoyed reading your descriptions of your roommates and your reflections on your university years. In what follows I will comment on your essay from two different perspectives: language, and style.

You write English in a clear and understandable manner, but there are many areas in which you could improve. For instance, you state that you "consider such an opinionated girl as a standard girl", while a native speaker would usually "consider such an opinionated girl to be a standard girl". Also, you refer to eating "flowerseeds", while a native speaker would eat "sunflower seeds", and not just the seeds of any flower!

In your sixth paragraph, you tell how your roommate "enjoyed telling a story". This implies that your roommate would tell the same one story over and over again. I think you mean to say that she "enjoyed telling stories". Also, we usually talk about "film stars" instead of "films stars".

Your sixth roommate was chosen as the person with "the fulfilling college life", whereas the name of the award should be "the most fulfilling college life." Native speakers would rarely say "Goody-bye", as you do in your seventh paragraph. They would

instead say "goodbye", or just "bye".

The second-to-last sentence in your seventh paragraph is also very awkward. You might consider rewording the sentence in this way: "She failed an exam, got good scores in some subjects, sometimes skipped class, took part in the student union, had a love affair with a boy on the Internet, was pursued by a boy, and even pursued a boy who later became her boyfriend." An even better idea



John Gordon, from the US, is the vice president of Beijing New Channel School

would be to divide the sentence up into several shorter sentences. As I have written before, a long sentence is not necessarily a good one.

As far as the style of your essay, my primary suggestion is that you add more of your own thoughts and feelings at the beginning and end of the essay. While the main content of your essay is introducing your roommates, the most interesting part to me is your own commentary on your roommates and your university life, so I would be interested to see a stronger introduction and a well-developed conclusion.

I hope that you take my suggestions into consideration and spend some time rewriting your essay. Rewriting is an integral part of the writing process, and it is often through the rewriting process that we make the most improvements in our writing. Even professional writers don't get everything write on the first draft, and many of the best writers spend hours poring over each and every word until they are satisfied. You don't have to spend hours on each word, but I hope that you and our other readers recognize the value of editing and rewriting.

All the best,

John

Photo provided by John Gordon

► Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see some Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send to shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

A muddled green message



Photo by Chen Shasha

By Philip Space

The Garden Rule

No firing in the open to protect the natural resource:

No littering to keep the environment clean.

No destroying wild lifestyle protect natural landscape.

This sign was spotted outside Wuling Mountain National Nature Reserve in Hebei province.

The name of the sign, 'The Garden Rule', needs to be changed. The sign is on a mountain, not a garden, so it should read something like: 'Please observe the following rules whilst on the mountain.'

'No firing' is mistakenly used in place of 'Do not light fires'. 'Firing' is a verb. For example, you might say, 'soldiers were firing their weapons' or 'the drivers were firing up their engines'. 'No firing in the open' in itself is not incorrect. If you are trying to stop people firing their guns in the garden, then it's fine. So a better way to write it is: 'Do not light fires in the open'.

The second sentence could be improved to: 'To keep the garden clean, please do not drop litter'.

The author has confused 'wildlife' with 'lifestyle' which makes for an amusing message. A better sentence would be: 'Please do not destroy wildlife on the mountain.'

Road sign ramblings



Photo provided by Beijing University of Technology

By Philip Space

Unpassengered Taxi Public (Mini) Buses Are Prohibited

This road sign is so muddled it's difficult to know what the message is. Firstly, all the words are capped up. Capital letters should only be used for starting a sentence or designating the name of a person, place or thing. Secondly, there is no such word as 'unpassengered'. You can say a vehicle 'without passengers' or a car has 'no passengers' but you cannot say 'unpassengered'. Thirdly, 'taxi public (mini) buses' makes no sense. Either the authors are referring to a taxi or a public mini bus. The adjective 'mini' should not be in brackets.

So a better way to phrase this sign would be: 'Public mini buses and taxis without passengers are prohibited.'

(By Chen Shasha)

*L'auberge Espagnole*

Friday, June 16

Exhibition Xue Song Solo Exhibition



Where: Dimensions Art Center, 798 Dashanzi South, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang.

When: Until July 2
Admission: Free
Tel: 6435 9665

Existence in Translation – Cang Xin Solo Exhibition

Where: Xin Dong Cheng Space for Contemporary Art, Chaoyang Liquor Factory, Beihuqu Road, AnwaiBeiYuan Street, Chaoyang.

When: 10am-5pm, until August 30

Admission: Free
Tel: 5202 3868

Music

American band *The Whips and the Whales* accompanied by post punk and garage punk groups *Nezha* and *Casino Demon*.

Where: 13 Club, 161 Lanqiyang Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10:30pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 8262 8077

Movie Darwin's Nightmare



Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 6pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Saturday, June 17

Exhibition Only Child – The First Time

The academic premise of this exhibition has been to invite artists born out of the one child system such as Da Xiang, He Jie, Tong, Dazhuang to present their work.

Where: Chinese Contemporary Beijing, MUST BE Contemporary Art Center, No.4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Dashanzi 798 Factory, Chaoyang

When: until July 19
Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 2421

Take It

A contemporary art exhibition displaying works from five artists from China and Europe.

Where: Universal Studios-Beijing, No.8 Jia District A, the Airport Sideway, Caoyangdi Village, Chaoyang



When: Tue-Sun, 12am-6pm, until July 16
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 2600

Outdoor West China Adventure Tours

Where: Hike along the Jiankou Great Wall and camp in a watchtower. The next day, stop for an outdoor country style lunch with freshly roasted trout.

When: until June 18
Tel: 13581682703

Movie Mongolia Ping-Pong



The film tells the story of a young boy who lives with his family and friends on the

vast plains of Mongolia. One day he sees a table tennis ball floating in the river that runs by his family's yurt.

Where: Hart Center of Arts, 798-Dashanzi, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6435 3570

The Rules of The Game



Centering on a lavish country house party given by the Marquis de la Chesnaye and his wife, the film slides from melodrama into farce, from realism into fantasy, and from comedy into tragedy.

Where: Handsome Cafe, Building 7, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 9pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6417 8288

Sunday, June 18

Exhibition Replay



A photography exhibition featuring Wang Yupeng, Du Jie and others.

Where: C5 Art, 5 Xiwu Jie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang

When: 10am-7pm, until July 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 6460 3950

Wang Yin Solo Exhibition

Where: White Space Beijing, No. 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until July 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 2054

Movie L'auberge Espagnole

Xavier, an economics student in his twenties, signs on to a European exchange program in order to gain working knowledge of the Spanish language. Promising that they'll remain close, he says farewell to his loving girlfriend...

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang

When: 6:30pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Outdoor Triangle Hike

Where: Follow the trail up the hill, through a village and back down to where it joins a river.

When: Leave Lido Starbucks at 8am and return at approximately 4:30pm
Tel: 13910025516

(By Qiu Jiaoning)